



Saturday December 28 1996

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, etc.

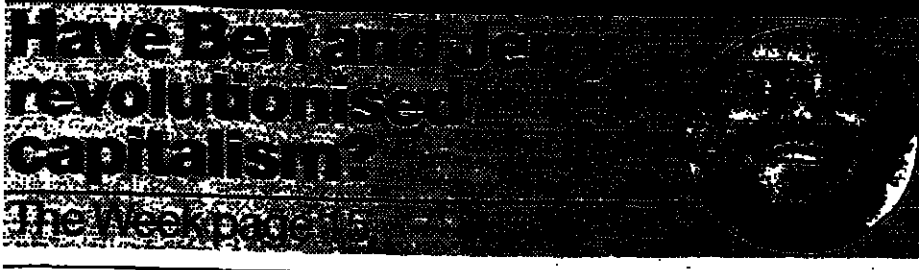
# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

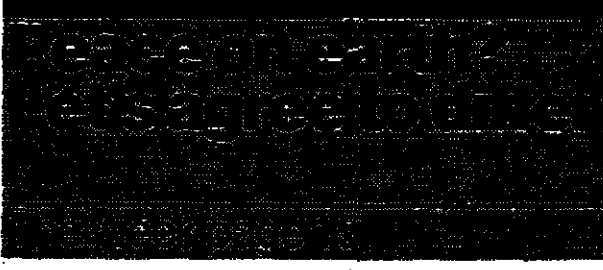
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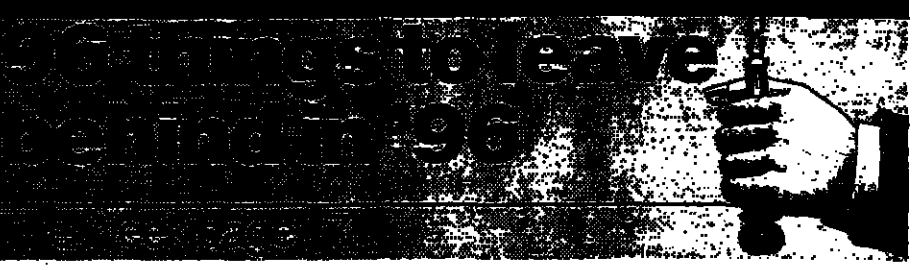
## The Joanna Coles interview



## Anthony Julius



## Charles Nevin's guide to the worst of the past year



Racehorses gathered on the gallops at Middleham Moor beneath the Pennine tops for exercise yesterday as all racing on turf in England fell foul of frost and snow-related chaos, page 4; The Week, page 21 PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

## Britons held on mutiny ship

Owen Bowcott

THE fate of two Britons revealed to be among a group of 28 workers being held hostage on board a cargo ship off the coast of Nigeria since before Christmas was last night being urgently investigated by the Foreign Office.

# Row over jail 'humiliation'

## Searches anger probation officers

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

PROBATION officers visiting prisons throughout England and Wales have walked out in protest at "humiliating" intimate body searches.

Probation officers visiting jails to complete court reports or make release arrangements were subject to electronic scanning and a property search. But now they face a long list of body checks including examination of their ears, mouth and hair and, if female, inside their bras and inside the waistband of their trousers.

## Case file

From the formal complaints lodged by probation staff... Belmarsh: "Without warning a female prison officer conducted a physical search which included putting her fingers under my bra and inside my leggings. This was done in the main area in front of male solicitors."

## Drink, drug and sex secrets of teenagers' bedrooms

Week Chaudhary and Andrew Gull

PARENTS used to worry about their teenage children going out at night and falling prey to drink, drugs and sex. But now they can get all that at home.



## Tory's part-time MPs claim disgusts Labour

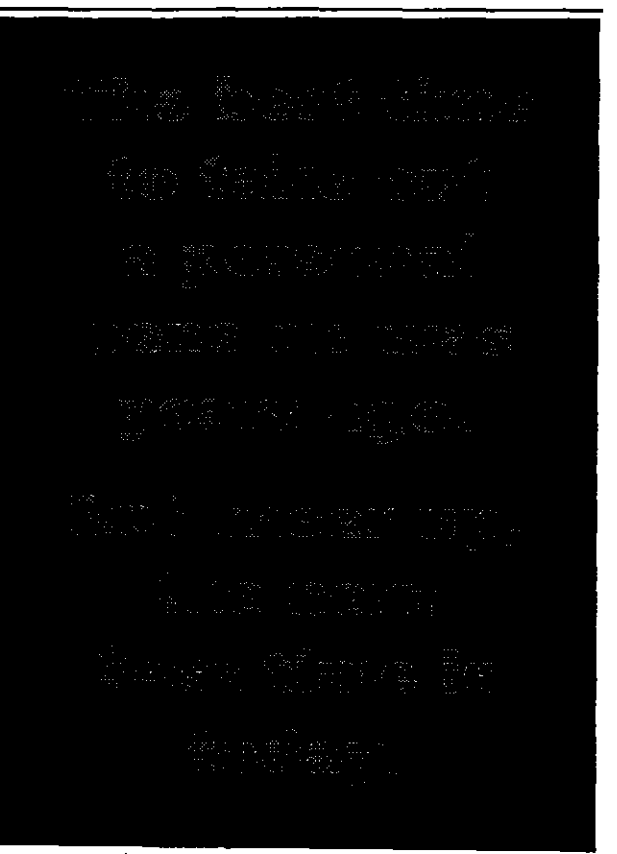
Michael White Political Editor

LABOUR yesterday staged a daring kidnap raid on one of the great figures of Tory mythology when it accused the Asda supermarket chief, Archie Norman, of provoking the wrath of "Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells".

"Perhaps Dr Mawhinney should say if this doctrine on backbench work-rate is to be the general rule for Tory candidates," said Mr Wilson. "Most MPs find that constituency and parliamentary work add up to something more than a full-time job. The idea that you can run a grocery chain is bizarre."

## Inside

Table of contents for the newspaper: News, World News, Finance, Sport, Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 7, Weather 2, TV and Radio 2, The Week, Arts 18-19, Sport 20-24.



Advertisement for Virgin Direct personal financial service, including phone number 0345 95 95 95 and a barcode.



British nurse is not guilty, insists family

Alison Daniels

THE family of Lucille McLauchlan, the British nurse charged with murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia, said yesterday that she was innocent and they would secure the best legal team to fight her case.



The distraught parents of Dundee nurse Lucille McLauchlan, Stan and Ann, who say they will secure the best legal help for their daughter. She and another Briton have been charged with murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia, and face the death penalty if found guilty.

John McLauchlan, an oil-rigger worker, said: "We have spoken to Lucy very briefly on the phone and she has assured us of her innocence. We are obviously worried sick about her situation and are making efforts to secure the very best legal representation for Lucy."

Mr. McLauchlan's mother, Ann, sat in tears beside her husband Stan, a former shipyard worker, at a press conference while their son told how the last few days had

been "absolute hell". John McLauchlan, an oil-rigger worker, said: "We have spoken to Lucy very briefly on the phone and she has assured us of her innocence. We are obviously worried sick about her situation and are making efforts to secure the very best legal representation for Lucy."

Mr. McLauchlan made no direct reference to reports that Ms Gilford's father does not intend to ask for clemency for the women if they are found guilty.

Ms McLauchlan had been working at the hospital since August. She had previously been a nurse at King's Cross Hospital in Dundee but was dismissed in May for gross misconduct after an investigation by Teyside police into allegations of dishonesty.

Milosevic told to respect will of the people

Julian Borger, East Europe Correspondent

SERBIA'S protest movement scored an important victory yesterday when a team of international mediators unequivocally upheld opposition wins in local elections and called on President Slobodan Milosevic to respect the will of the people.

In 13 disputed cities and towns and in nine Belgrade municipalities. Speaking at a press conference in Geneva to announce the OSCE findings, Mr Gonzalez said the Serbian courts annulled the results on the basis of arguments "that no democratic country could have accepted". His report recommended that the 53-nation OSCE issue an urgent call on the authorities "to implement the will of the citizens as expressed in the polls".

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities table with columns for city, temperature, and weather conditions.

Around the world table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions.

European weather outlook. A warm front will bring snow to much of Norway, but most of the rest of the region will be fine and cold with freezing fog patches.

Television and radio - Saturday

- 11.00am The Pink Panther. 8.30 News and Weather. 9.00am BBC 2. 9.30am The New Adventures of Jerry Lewis. 10.00am The Live, Daily History. 11.00am The World's Worst. 11.30am The World's Worst. 12.00pm The World's Worst. 1.00pm The World's Worst. 1.30pm The World's Worst. 2.00pm The World's Worst. 2.30pm The World's Worst. 3.00pm The World's Worst. 3.30pm The World's Worst. 4.00pm The World's Worst. 4.30pm The World's Worst. 5.00pm The World's Worst. 5.30pm The World's Worst. 6.00pm The World's Worst. 6.30pm The World's Worst. 7.00pm The World's Worst. 7.30pm The World's Worst. 8.00pm The World's Worst. 8.30pm The World's Worst. 9.00pm The World's Worst. 9.30pm The World's Worst. 10.00pm The World's Worst. 10.30pm The World's Worst. 11.00pm The World's Worst. 11.30pm The World's Worst. 12.00am The World's Worst.

Television and radio - Sunday

- 11.00am The Pink Panther. 8.30 News and Weather. 9.00am BBC 2. 9.30am The New Adventures of Jerry Lewis. 10.00am The Live, Daily History. 11.00am The World's Worst. 11.30am The World's Worst. 12.00pm The World's Worst. 1.00pm The World's Worst. 1.30pm The World's Worst. 2.00pm The World's Worst. 2.30pm The World's Worst. 3.00pm The World's Worst. 3.30pm The World's Worst. 4.00pm The World's Worst. 4.30pm The World's Worst. 5.00pm The World's Worst. 5.30pm The World's Worst. 6.00pm The World's Worst. 6.30pm The World's Worst. 7.00pm The World's Worst. 7.30pm The World's Worst. 8.00pm The World's Worst. 8.30pm The World's Worst. 9.00pm The World's Worst. 9.30pm The World's Worst. 10.00pm The World's Worst. 10.30pm The World's Worst. 11.00pm The World's Worst. 11.30pm The World's Worst. 12.00am The World's Worst.

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# First blood to the bailiffs in latest bypass battle

Alex Bellis and Geoffrey Gibbs

**E**NVIRONMENTAL protesters trying to stop construction of a Devon trunk road were caught on the hop yesterday when bailiffs took one hour to evict a camp they had taken two years to build.

The battle to stop the Exeter-Honiton A30 bypass is the latest flashpoint in a wider campaign against road-building. Many veterans of the high-profile action against the Newbury bypass, which started almost a year ago, have been in Devon preparing defences including networks of connecting tunnels.

Twenty bailiffs with 30 police officers as back-up launched a pre-dawn raid on Allercombe, the smallest of the three camps on the route. Despite threats by protesters to chain themselves in the tunnels, only five were there and none was underground.

The Under Sheriff of Devon,

**'It went smoothly. There was no resistance. They were a bit dozy'**

Trevor Coleman, said the protesters were found asleep in tree houses. "There was no resistance at all. It went very smoothly. We had the element of surprise and they were definitely a bit dozy."

Sep, aged 21, said: "I was asleep in the communal tree house and it took me a couple of minutes to realise what was going on. By the time I had woken up and got my boots on there were two

climbers in the protest — a 13-mile stretch of dual carriageway, linking the M5 motorway near Exeter with the existing Honiton bypass — has divided local opinion.

Local people, who have been promised a bypass since 1929, have long argued for improvements to the existing road, which contains a number of accident blackspots and is often choked with traffic, especially during the summer.

But the need to cut a new stretch of road through the east Devon countryside, involving the destruction of ancient trees, also led to local environmental campaigners

joining forces with seasoned anti-roads protesters, veterans of battles around the country.

Since 1992, when the Dongas tribe invented anti-road direct action by squatting on Twyford Down near Winchester, roads protests have become part of the British cultural landscape.

The best known were at Batheston, Wanstead, Pollock and Newbury, although there have been many more. Even though none has stopped a road being built, campaigning groups feel the protests have shifted public opinion in their favour.

The protests have had a long-term effect. The Government realises that building a road can have serious political and financial implications — for example, more than \$15 million was spent on security costs at Newbury. Many planned road projects have been abandoned.

Companies also think twice before tendering for road contracts. Costain, which is building Newbury, is still harassed by protesters. About a quarter of the shareholders who turned up at Costain's extraordinary general meeting in London yesterday were anti-road activists.

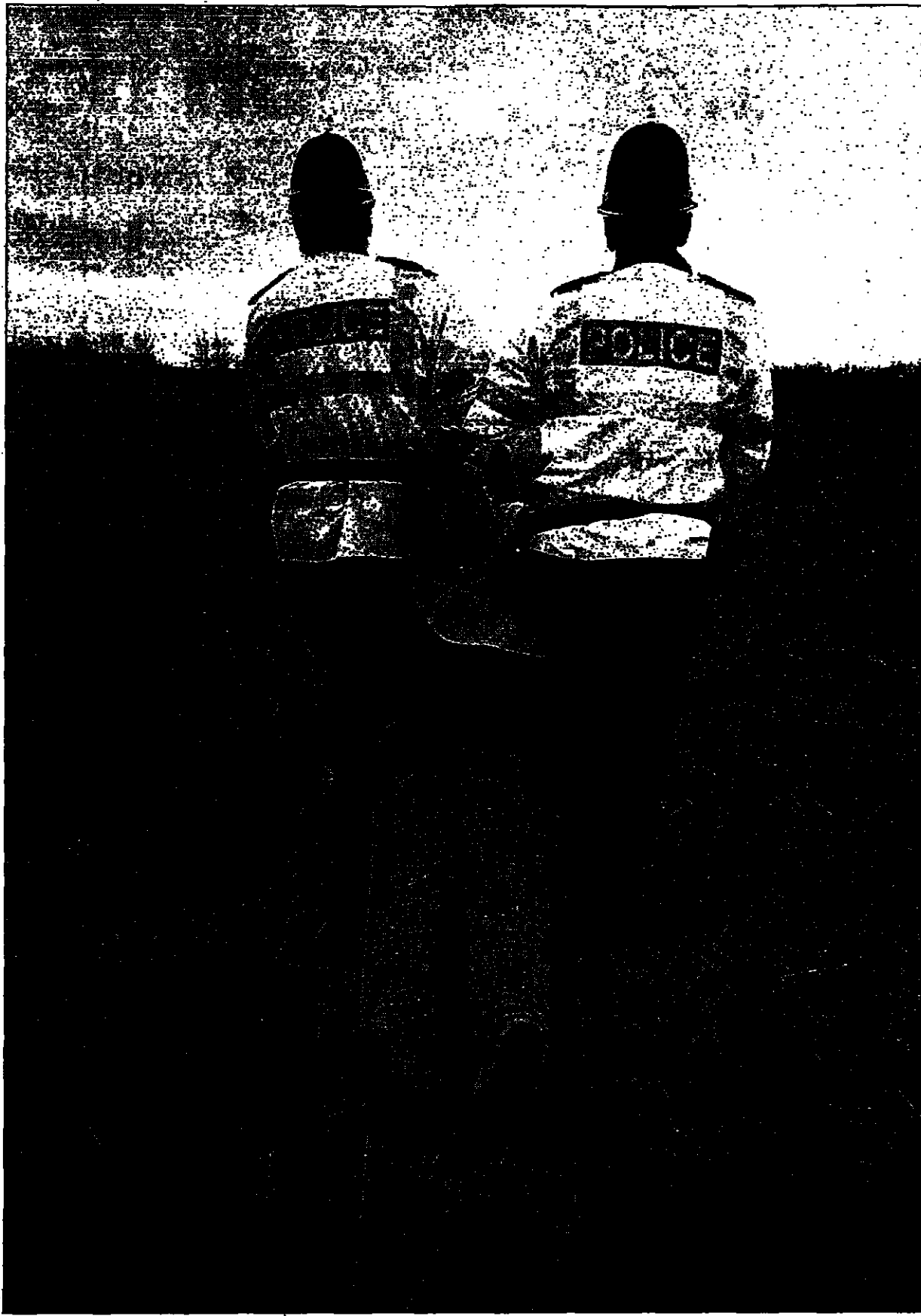
The Government gave the go-ahead for the Devon scheme in October 1993 after a public inquiry. The \$20 million contract to build and operate the road was awarded in July to the Anglo-German consortium Connect under the Government's Private Finance Initiative.

The camps which then sprung up around the site of the bypass were nicknamed the University of Road Protests because people have been living there for so long and the protesters have developed new techniques for delaying the onset of the diggers.

A web of underground tunnels was built, where protesters planned to hide, blocking the exits when the bailiffs moved in. The tunnels' structure is so weak that the weight of heavy vehicles above ground would cause them to collapse, a move which no contractor would dare risk, the protesters claimed.

They also adopted the tested technique of building structures in the trees, which they planned to "lock on" to prevent or delay eviction.

When the critical moment came yesterday morning, two people were arrested. A 30-year-old man was detained on charges arising from the



Road to nowhere... Police remove a protester after yesterday's raid on the camp at Allercombe

PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CLIFF

Newbury bypass protest and climbing experts checked the tunnels and tree houses to ensure no protesters remained before work began with a mechanical digger and chain saws to render the site uninhabitable.

Around 100 feet of tunnels were excavated, Mr Coleman admitted. "They were more extensive than we expected."

He added: "We have endeavoured to safeguard their belongings, and although these are very numerous they are of little value and we will leave them for their collection at a suitable time."

"I am disappointed that far so-called environmental protesters they have taken little care of their immediate environment and the site resembles a waste dump."

Yesterday's walk-over is unlikely to be repeated at the evictions of the two larger camps, Trollheim and Fair-

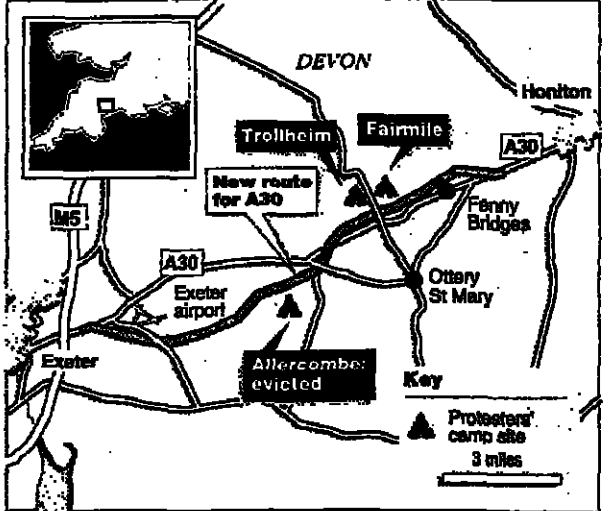
mile, which are five miles away. Both are larger and less isolated, and word is out around the country for supporters to head down there.

"We have already put out the call on the tree phone for other 'Troops to join us,'" said one resident of the heavily wooded hilltop Trollheim camp. He hoped a hundred or more protesters would come from as far afield as Scotland to join those who have been living at the neighbouring camps for up to two years.

Mr Coleman's officials acknowledge that evicting the Fairmile and Trollheim protesters will prove a more difficult prospect. But a spokesman said the bailiffs were not concerned by the technical difficulties involved or the prospect of more protesters arriving as a result of the Allercombe publicity. "We feel we have the men and machinery to cope with whatever situation occurs."

Keeping watch from a precarious-looking tripod structure beneath the huge oak that dominates the camp, he said he would lock his arms into a metal oil drum to resist eviction once the Under Sheriff's men were spotted moving on the camp.

## A30: protesters evicted



## Landmark protests

**TWYFORD DOWN, 1992:** The first direct action anti-road protest. The Dongas tribe linked with environmental groups and local residents to object to the M3 extension near Winchester. They said it would cut through beautiful countryside.

**WANSTEAD, 1994:** The battle over the M11 link road saw hundreds of protesters clash with police and private security guards. The link road, still being built, will run through Wanstead, east London. Protesters took over five houses and occupied trees on Wanstead Common.

**BATHEASTON, 1994:** Bel Mooney, wife of Jonathan Dimbleby, was

the highest profile local resident to join hardcore direct action activists camping out on the site of the Stainswick bypass, Batheston, on the outskirts of Bath. Her involvement in spring 1994 and the attendant publicity was instrumental in bringing the ideas behind road protests to a larger audience.

**NEWBURY, 1996:** The largest protest so far. At its peak in February 1996 several hundred people were living in camps along the nine-mile route. More than 900 people were arrested, mostly for obstructing the sheriff and aggravated trespass. A mass rally against the A34 bypass attracted 8,000 people.



Newbury this year became the largest roads protest to date

## Britons held on mutiny ship

continued from page 1  
captives were "safe and unharmed" and negotiations to reach a "more reasonable" pay request were under way. "It is the fifth day. They have been there since December 28 and there are ongoing negotiations to resolve the situation."

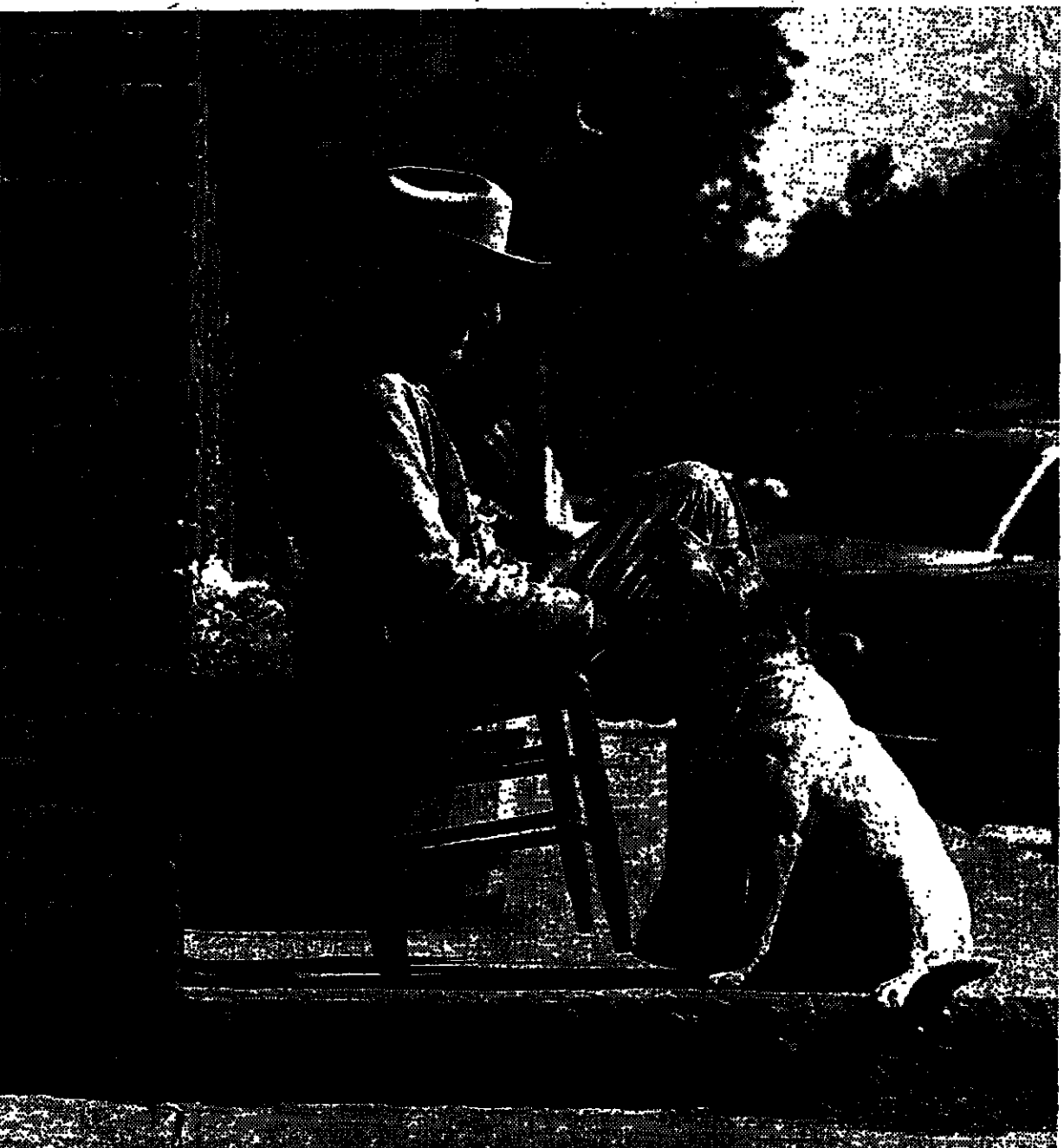
"So far they are safe and unharmed despite the passing of a deadline by the Nigerian workers who said things will happen if their demands were not met by then," he said. Filipino crew members, who had been able to send

## The Guardian Personality of the Year

- John Major won the BBC's Personality of the Year award and accusations of dirty-dealing. No surprise, he was named The Guardian's poll. You are invited to vote for your favourite.
- For services to the Labour Party: **Neil Hamilton**
- For services to the Labour Party: **Jane Austen**
- For services to ratings: **Duchess of York**
- For services to republicanism: **Kevin Davies**
- For services to parliamentary democracy: **Neil Jordan**
- For services to republicanism: **Kenneth Clarke**
- For services to Europe: **Neil Hamilton**

**"We shall not progress towards a fair society until privileged members like you and me who do very well out of spurious traditions are prepared to protest against them."**  
Head to Head: the Honours List

**The Week page 16**



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA.

**WHEN YOU VISIT THE TOWN SQUARE of Lynchburg, Tennessee, there are a couple of sights you can expect to see.**

One is our town dog, who's been around forever. The other is Mr. Herb Fanning, who's been around even longer. Mr. Herb drops into Jack Daniel Distillery often, to make sure we're still mellowing our whiskey the way we did when he worked here. Which is to say, the same way our founder prescribed back in 1866. So far, we haven't disappointed Mr. Herb. Nor any of the folks who enjoy a whiskey made the old-time way.



**JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY**

Alison Daniels reports on the political row over cold weather payments to the elderly as icy conditions swept Britain again yesterday

# 'Million missing out' on heating aid

**L**ABOUR yesterday attacked the Government's cold weather payments scheme after it emerged that only those living in six areas of the country will qualify for help with heating bills despite bitter weather conditions across the country over Christmas.

Last night, as weather forecasters predicted a further drop in temperatures, there were warnings that many elderly people faced hardship and even death as a result of poor heating and poverty.

Under the Department of Social Security system pensioners, the disabled and families with children under five all on income support, will receive payments in five areas in Scotland and in Liscombe, near Dulverton, in Somerset.

Benefit Agency payments of £8.50 a week are triggered when the average temperature has been at freezing or below for seven consecutive days, or weather stations predict such temperatures for the next seven days.

However, Harriet Harman, shadow social security secretary, said the rules meant that almost 1 million old people who did not claim the income support to which they were entitled missed out on help with their fuel bills.

"The stark truth is that Britain's poorest pensioners may have to choose between heating and eating this winter because the Tories have failed to ensure they get the benefits they are entitled to," she said.

Although Labour do not propose to alter the formula triggering payments, the Labour MP for Preston, Audrey Wise, said she hoped to pilot into law a backbench bill requiring the wind chill factor to be taken into account when calculating payments. The current system was, she claimed, designed to be triggered as infrequently as possible.

Concern about payments were also raised by the Liberal Democrat MP Diana Maddock, who said 250 people died of hypothermia last winter. The charity Help the Aged called on the Government to relax the criteria for payments from seven days to four.

According to the DSS the Scottish payments have been triggered on the basis of predictions for the next week while the Somerset payments are based on temperatures recorded over the last seven days.

The social security minister Andrew Mitchell, defended the current scheme, which was "introduced by this Conservative government to help some of the most vulnerable people in our society".

A DSS spokesman said it was too simplistic to say a million pensioners would miss out. He said the Government made every effort to ensure those who were entitled to benefits knew about them.



Painter Bryan Bowen at work on a winter snowscape of Mousehold Heath, Norwich, yesterday, as icy conditions caused severe problems for motorists around the country

PHOTOGRAPH BYRON COLTON

## Colder times ahead as ice makes it treacherous for drivers

### Man dies after falling through pond in attempt to rescue dog

**F**ROZEN weather conditions brought chaos to roads throughout the country yesterday amid predictions that temperatures will continue to fall over the next few days.

A light dusting of snow and temperatures of just above freezing left thousands of

motorists stranded and caused a series of accidents on most major roads around London, including the M25, M1 and M11.

Police in Kent said motorists had ignored dangerous conditions causing a number of accidents on the M2 and M20. In one incident a driver

had to be freed from wreckage after his car hit a railway bridge.

In the Midlands motoring organisations painted a picture of delays and treacherous conditions caused by icy roads and dense fog and said they had been inundated with pleas for help.

Snow in London closed part of one of the city's main routes, the North Circular.

In Wales a man drowned after falling through ice try-

ing to rescue a stranded dog. Divers recovered the body of 62-year-old Edward Rees from a pond near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, after a day-long search involving a mountain rescue team and a helicopter.

Mr Rees, of Pen-y-darren, Merthyr Tydfil, had been walking in countryside above the Morlais Quarry and was reported missing by relatives after failing to return home when darkness fell.

His death brings the total of those who have drowned in similar tragedies to about 16 in five years.

In Scotland police and mountain rescue teams called off a search for a climber who has been missing since Christmas Day. John Winship, aged 53, from Temple Cloud, Avon, disappeared after separating from a friend in Glen Nevis at the end of the access road to Ben Nevis near Fort William.

The Glencoe and Lochaber mountain rescue teams were joined by a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and mountain rescue teams from RAF Kinross and RAF Leuchars, but abandoned the search after combing the Lochaber area.

A spokesman for Northern Constabulary in Inverness said it was possible Mr Winship, a father of two, had walked off the hills. However, he said conditions on the hills

had been bitterly cold.

The cold snap also saw a big rise in the number of flu cases, according to figures released by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Last week there were 129 cases of flu and flu-like illness per 100,000 of the population. The incidence rate had risen since the end of the previous week when it stood at 87 per 100,000. In the previous two weeks the figures stood at 53.8 and 35.4 respectively.

## Briton saves French sailor on high seas

**A**FRENCH solo sailor was recovering last night after being rescued from the sea by a round-the-world yachtman Pete Goss.

Mr Goss put aside his dreams of race victory as he sailed to the rescue of Raphael Dinelli, aged 58, who was stranded in a life raft dropped to him by a rescue plane after his yacht *Algemous* began to sink in the Indian Ocean on Thursday night.

The pair were competing in the Vendée Globe non-stop, single-handed race around the world.

Mr Goss, aged 34, a former Royal Marine who sold his house and ran up debts of more than £80,000 to fulfil a 10-year ambition to take part in the race, was the first to respond to the Frenchman's urgent Mayday call.

His sloop the 50ft *Aqua Quorum*, which is the smallest in the fleet, was piloted by the man who put the front on *Concorde* and was launched by actress Joanna Lumley.

The ex-British Steel Challenge skipper, from Plymouth, Devon, managed to rendezvous with Mr Dinelli's life raft drifting in the ocean at 11.30pm (GMT).

One of the race organisers, Laurie Gallizzi, said: "Pete went straight away in the direction of Raphael when he heard what had happened. 'Every hour from then on he sent us a fax to say how he was going. He said there really fast, we were surprised at how quickly he got near to the spot where Mr Dinelli

was." Following the rescue Mr Goss was able to send a message: "Raphael is on board", it said. "He is very cold and happy. He has no injuries. I've just given him a cup of tea."

In a statement, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said: "We confirm that Raphael Dinelli has been rescued by the *Aqua Quorum*. Raphael is in good spirits, suffering from mild hypothermia only."

"Their intention is to head for Hobart to offload Raphael."

The two men had developed a close bond earlier in the race after the Frenchman helped Mr Goss by keeping in radio contact with him for several days after his satellite fax broke down.

Mr Goss, an experienced yachtman who finished second in his class in this year's single-handed transatlantic race, will be compensated for the time he has lost in the event.

He is currently placed seventh out of the 10 competitors remaining from the original field of 14 yachts which left the French port of Les Sables d'Olonne on November 3, at the start of their 22,000 mile voyage. They are due to return to France in February or March.

The French organisers of the race said Mr Dinelli was competing unofficially. His entry was barred shortly before the race began because he had not done enough sailing to qualify for the gruelling event.

But he decided to take part anyway.

## British firm urged to withdraw from Malaysian dam project

**Paul Brown**  
Environment Correspondent

**A**BIRMINGHAM company which has won a contract to provide alternative housing for at least 9,000 Malaysian forest dwellers when their homes are drowned by a dam has been urged to withdraw from the project by the environmental group Friends of the Earth because the people are to be removed by force.

The Bucknall Group has a key role in preventing delays in the \$4 billion Bakun hydro-electric project in Sarawak on Borneo by providing the housing. Many of the tribesmen have said they will resist the move.

The project will drown more than 200,000 acres of mainly primary forest, including the longhouses of five tribes comprising 9,000-10,000 people.

These tribes were not fully consulted about the project and are opposed to it. However, the government has decided they should be removed if they will not volunteer to be rehoused. Many tribesmen have said they will resist.

Work has begun on clearing the forest. The aim is to finish one of the largest rock wall dam projects in the world by 2002.

Friends of the Earth wrote to David Bucknall, the group's chief executive, pointing out the opposition of more than 40 groups of indigenous people and environmental, human rights, women's and consumer groups.

The High Court in Kuala Lumpur ruled on June 19 this year that the government had

failed to meet legal environmental impact assessment requirements after the representations of three indigenous peoples from the area.

Bucknall's contract includes building new longhouses and providing support facilities including schools, roads, water and electricity supplies. However, the native peoples believe the area is not fertile or large enough to support them.

Sarah Tysak, forest campaigner for FoE, said: "There are severe doubts that the project is viable in the economic sense, but feasibility studies and reports commissioned by the government have been classified as official secrets."

"We think any honourable company should withdraw from a project like this. The forcible moving of native

peoples for a doubtful mega-dam project is dirty work."

She said FoE had given the company six weeks to reply to criticism, but it had so far not done so. A dossier of information on the dam, the consequences for local people and the environment, and the doubtful economics of the project were sent to the company on November 11.

Mr Bucknall said yesterday a reply was being prepared. He added: "Our responsibility is to erect houses for these people in locations where we were told they were required."

"Relocation can be difficult. It is bound to bring all kinds of emotions, some of them not happy. We are not involved in forcibly removing them: our task will be to build the houses. Once that is done our responsibility for what happens to the people ends."

waiting assessment or care arrangements by social services. A survey last year by the NHS executive suggested more than 6,000 beds might be blocked in this way in England alone.

Although the figure from the local authorities' survey is far lower, it is not a complete picture and it has been calculated on a different basis. Most important, it represents the authorities' first formal acknowledgement of the problem.

The survey covered the 141 social services departments in England and Wales and drew responses from 69, 72 per cent of which said they had blocked beds.

Twenty-three departments said patients were waiting for a care home place of their choice; 14 reported funding problems; eight said patients were waiting for equipment or adaptations to enable them to go home; two said patients were refusing to leave hospital.

## Hospital beds 'blocked' by social care patients

**David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent**

**A**LMOST three-quarters of local authorities questioned in a survey admit there is "bed-blocking" in hospitals because there are patients fit for discharge who cannot be moved out.

The survey by the local authority social services found that 50 authorities reported a total 1,365 blocked beds in their areas. In one area, 178 beds were occupied by people awaiting discharge.

Bed-blocking has emerged as one of the biggest problems facing the NHS since the introduction in 1993 of the community care system, by which local authority social services departments must ensure people's needs are met after discharge from hospital.

Many hospitals have claimed they have valuable bed space taken up by patients, generally elderly,

waiting assessment or care arrangements by social services. A survey last year by the NHS executive suggested more than 6,000 beds might be blocked in this way in England alone.

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## Girl, 16, who stormed out of home after family row found hanged in nearby woodland

**Owen Bowcott**

**A**TEENAGE schoolgirl who stormed out of the family home on Christmas Eve after a row with her father was yesterday found hanged in woodland less than half a mile away.

The body of 16-year-old Stephanie Edmunds, of Rhigos, near Aberdare, in south Wales, was discovered after mounted police led a wide search over nearby hills.

The operation followed a desperate public appeal on Boxing Day from her father, Reginald Edmunds, who initially thought she had gone off to her room to sulk. The family had pleaded with

Stephanie to come home, saying that their disagreement had been resolved.

Officers found Stephanie early yesterday. Inspector Tony Garrett of South Wales police said: "It's a mystery. One minute she was in the house but when her parents went to look for her she had gone."

Mr Edmunds, his wife Diane, and their two sons Geraint, 13 and Philip, 18, were said to be distraught. The close community of Rhigos was also upset by the news that Stephanie had been found dead.

Lorraine Davies, a neighbour, said: "She was a lovely girl - she used to babysit for my grandchildren. Everyone

loved her. She often did my granddaughter's hair. She told me she wanted to be a hairdresser. We can't believe what has happened. She was a happy quiet girl - it's impossible to think she would do something like this. Everyone is totally shocked. We have been worried sick all over Christmas, now our worst fears have come true."

Police are not treating the death as suspicious, but a spokeswoman said: "The last known sighting of Stephanie was at 5.45pm on Christmas Eve and we would like to speak to anyone who may have seen her since that time or who can give any information about her state of mind."

Meanwhile, police hunting the missing nine-year-old schoolgirl Kayleigh Ward yesterday carried out an intensive search of two travellers' encampments on the outskirts of Wrexham.

Kayleigh, described by police as "streetwise", disappeared a week ago after leaving her home in Lorne Street, Chester, to buy chips for a neighbour. Despite Christmas appeals from her mother Yvonne, 36, there has so far been no trace of her.

More than 50 officers from Cheshire and North Wales took part in yesterday's operation investigating two large encampments at Ruthin Road and Cross Newydd, on the edge of Wrexham.

Nicknamed "Oddyball" or "Oddy", Kayleigh is believed by police to have had contacts with the travelling community. She used to play truant from school and go into the centre of Chester, where she would chat to homeless people. One report suggested that a lone child of around Kayleigh's age was out carol singing on Sunday night on the sprawling Blaencynon estate in Chester where Kayleigh lived until last October.

The incident room at Chester police station received over 200 calls over Christmas which are being followed up by detectives, but so far there has been no confirmed sighting. Anyone with information was asked to call the incident room on 01244 613613.



Stephanie: 'She was a lovely girl. Everyone loved her'

من الامم



# Moscow hails trade pact with China

**R**USSIA yesterday signed a wide range of agreements on the transfer of nuclear and military technology to China, hoping to use Beijing as a counterweight to Nato expansion.

President Boris Yeltsin, who was back at work after his long recovery from open heart surgery, held a 50-minute meeting with the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng.

In comments clearly directed at Washington, a presidential spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said the two leaders had agreed that the future political map of the world should be a "bi-polar one which is not divided into leaders and those who are being led".

It was also pointed out that Mr Li was the first foreign visitor to see Mr Yeltsin since he returned to the Kremlin after a six-month absence, and that a visit by the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, would follow in April.

Mr Yeltsin, eager to present himself with a foreign policy success after so many setbacks with Nato, said yesterday: "Our strategic agreements reached in Beijing work."

As an indication of the two countries' determination to forge closer links, it was announced that the Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, would meet Mr Li twice a year, to parallel the contacts already established with the United States vice-president, Al Gore.

The two sides also set themselves a target of raising bilateral trade turnover to as much as \$6.2 billion next year. The sale of Russian military and nuclear hardware will be at the forefront of the new Sino-Russian relationship.

Mr Li also signed a protocol on building in China a gas centrifuge plant for processing uranium. A similar project to sell gas centrifuge technology to Iran caused a serious rift between Moscow and Washington more than a year ago.

Another initial agreement



Above: President Yeltsin (right) welcomes the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, at the Kremlin yesterday, his first meeting with a foreign leader since his heart operation. Right: Father Frost and his daughter Snegurochka ("snow-born girl") join soldiers exercising at a barracks in Moscow to help them celebrate the new year.

was signed to build a light-water nuclear power station, a VVER 1000, in China.

The atomic energy minister, Viktor Mikhailov, who has been vituperative about the West's attempts to stop the sale of Russian reactors abroad, said he expected to triple the trade of Russian nuclear technology to China, which is currently valued at \$155 million a year.

In the military field, China has already bought 48 Sukhoi 27 fighters from Russia and is negotiating a license to build 200 more. It has also bought two Kilo-class diesel submarines and ground-to-air anti-aircraft missiles.

Another protocol, on the exchange of military technology, was signed yesterday with journalists excluded.

Big problems remain in the relationship. Mr Yeltsin and President Jiang are due to sign an agreement with the presidents of the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, on withdrawing troops along the 2,500-mile border, but the negotiations remain highly sensitive.

The issue of ceding land to China, which was once the cause of fierce and bloody border clashes, is particularly



## Lebed forms 'third force' to strike at Yeltsin

**A**LLEXANDER LEBED, the most powerful opposition figure in Russia, has announced that he is forming a political "third force" to attract millions of voters who, he claims, are disappointed with communism and alienated by the self-styled democrats.

Striking out at both President Yeltsin and the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, Gen Lebed declared in a newspaper interview that the main danger facing Russia was an

inefficient government run by people prepared to make extreme decisions in their own interests.

The former security chief made clear that his break with Mr Yeltsin was final by devoting a large part of the interview to the president's health.

"I know for certain that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is a very sick man," he said. Quoting his own highly placed sources, he hinted that Mr Yeltsin was ignoring the advice of doctors by launching himself again into the political fray.

Gen Lebed said that physically Mr Yeltsin was fit only

for retirement and to play the role of a fund grandfather. He said: "The president has spent half a year having an operation and recuperating, but someone was running the country on his behalf, and did it so badly that Russia is in crisis now. This crisis may reach its peak in the spring."

The new party, called the Russian Popular Republican Party, would avoid the extremes of both left and right, he said, and had substantial financial backing. Gen Lebed, although popular, knows that he lacks a pan-Russian organisation.

His announcement was

directed at Mr Zyuganov's supporters as well as those fed up with Kremlin intrigues. Asked who would support him, he gave a diverse list of potential supporters.

"We will seek the support of small and medium-sized business, big private industry, the armed forces, the military-industrial complex, the intelligentsia," he told a news conference in the village of Golitsyno, outside Moscow.

While parties in Russian politics are ten a penny — Gen Lebed has founded two previous movements — his strident attack is a threat to Mr Yeltsin. Gen Lebed has thrown political caution to the wind, sensing that the end of Mr Yeltsin's second term as president may be fast approaching.

He is now using the same language about Mr Yeltsin, his former political partner, as Mr Yeltsin's disgraced former bodyguard Alexander Korzhakov.

Gen Lebed gave further backing to Gen Korzhakov yesterday by saying that he now thought he was right to try to arrest two party workers, who were caught taking \$235,000 from the White House during the election campaign.

## Netherlands faces looming EU deadlines

The margin for failure is narrow, writes **John Palmer** in his second report on the new EU presidency

RECEIVED NO congratulations from other governments on assuming the European Union presidency — only heartfelt commiserations. The Dutch foreign minister, Hans van Mierlo, has a lugubrious sense of humour, but faces the greatest challenge of his 40-year membership of the EU when it takes over the presidency on New Year's Day.

With the deadline for the single currency and a new EU treaty drawing near, the Dutch know that the margin separating a successful presidency from a disaster is unnervingly slim. As experts ended members' careers, they are now asking how easily things can go wrong.

They went badly wrong during the last Dutch presidency, at a crucial stage of the Maastricht treaty negotiations — at the end of February or beginning of March — they will call a special summit immediately afterwards.

The assumption is that Tony Blair will move into Downing Street, and that it will then be possible to negotiate an agreement with Britain.

Some Dutch diplomats already see a compromise under which Britain would opt back into the EU social policy, accept some modest extension of majority voting and other reforms and, in return, be given a new, hopefully temporary, opt-out from EU controls on immigration and border controls.

The British are not the only ones with whom the Dutch have problems. France is leading an EU-wide movement to force the Netherlands to abandon its lax policy on soft drugs as part of the planned move to open the union's internal borders.

Compromises here will be difficult to sell at home, but may be unavoidable for the country responsible for the EU presidency.

## Bickering stalls Balkan projects

**R**ICHARD THOMAS in Washington

THE World Bank is ready to install a senior adviser in the office of the international community's High Representative in Bosnia in an attempt to defuse inter-agency bickering and secure additional money from donor countries for former Yugoslavia.

Ahead of a meeting of key donors in London in a fortnight, the bank is anxious to end rows with the High Representative, Carl Bildt, which are blocking reconstruction efforts.

"There has been tension," a World Bank source said. "The High Rep's office has taken a purely political approach, whereas we are more interested in moving beyond Dayton peace accord into economic rebuilding."

Mr Bildt has been annoyed by the World Bank's support for groups which he believes are not fully in compliance with the Dayton accord, and bank officials are critical of his inflexibility.

By beefing up its Bosnian operation, the World Bank — which is providing nearly a third of the aid and loans to the former Yugoslavia — hopes to increase the pressure on donors, who are meeting on January 3.

"We are leading by example," the bank source said.

The person to be attached to Mr Bildt's office has not yet been appointed, but World Bank sources said a senior economic development expert would be sent.

Although most of the \$1.8 billion (\$1.1 billion) promised so far has been paid, the bank is worried about Bosnia on the wane and Western governments struggling to reduce budget deficits, it will be difficult to reach the \$1.4 billion target for 1997, and the total of \$5.2 billion pledged before the end of the century.

"It is not going to be an easy process," the bank source said. World Bank officials warn that, unless there is swift agreement to the new funding, reconstruction will be stalled.

The move follows months of bickering between the implementation teams on the ground and contributing countries, who want to see concrete results.

Progress towards establishing fresh branches of government has been slow, partly because of lack of co-ordination among the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, aid agencies and the High Representative's office. "We urgently need to put in place the human infrastructure necessary to give recovery a chance," the bank source said.

## News in brief

**Belgium seeks ex-Mossad agent**

THE Belgian government wants to question a former Mossad agent concerning the killing in 1990 of an American scientist who allegedly worked on a long-range gun for Iraq at the time of his death, an Israeli newspaper said yesterday.

The Yediot Aharonot newspaper said the Belgian government sent a request to Canadian authorities to question former Mossad agent, Victor Ostrovsky, who now lives in Ottawa, about the death of Gerald Bull, an arms dealer and weapons expert.

In one of his books about Mossad, Mr Ostrovsky wrote that two Mossad agents visited Bull shortly before his death to try to persuade him to stop working for the Israelis. Bull refused and was later killed by the two agents, Mr Ostrovsky wrote.

Bull was shot and killed when he opened the door of his Brussels flat on March 22 1990. His killer has never been caught. — AP.

**France to quit Iraq exercise**

FRANCE is to withdraw from a Western air reconnaissance operation over Kurdish areas of northern Iraq — a decision that may prompt accusations that it wants to dominate future trade overtures with Baghdad.

After refusing for several days to say whether it would continue to take part in "Provence 96" — an operation over Kurdistan which began after the 1991 Gulf war — the French foreign ministry yesterday confirmed its withdrawal.

The decision to withdraw from the mission — a joint effort by the United States, Turkey, Britain and France — marks the latest diplomatic rift between Paris and Washington. — Alex Duval Smith, Paris.

**Deaths from cold a 'disgrace'**

THE death of a fifth homeless person in three days of record low temperatures prompted a call yesterday for public buildings to be opened urgently across France.

Abbé Pierre, an octogenarian priest and campaigner for the poor, told French radio: "The deaths are a disgrace — proof of what happens when we refuse, even in good weather, to acknowledge the presence of these people."

"The government must immediately order railway and metro stations to be opened and heated day and night, and any other public buildings which are available." — Alex Duval Smith, Paris.

**South Korean strikes spread**

SOUTH KOREA'S biggest group of labour unions yesterday threw its 1.2 million-strong membership behind a nationwide strike until the end of the year, while the government and employers sought to soothe workers' anger.

Nurses at 14 hospitals joined strikers that have almost halted production of cars and ships and that threaten chaos when bus drivers and underground staff walk out today.

More than 15,000 workers raised their clenched fists at a rally in Seoul, chanting anti-government slogans as they vented their fury against a new labour law which was passed on Thursday. — Reuters, Seoul.

**Doll chews girl's scalp clean**

A battery-operated Cabbage Patch Doll that can chew had to be taken apart piece by piece when it munched a girl's hair up to her scalp and wouldn't let go. Sarah Stevens' aunt and the owner of the hair salon in Griffith, Indiana, where the incident took place took 30 minutes to free Sarah.

Sarah, aged seven, was shaken but unharmed. "I have a little headache," she said.

Glenn Borchart, a spokesman for the doll's maker, Mattel Inc, said that the toy is safe and that he knows of no other safety complaints about it. — AP, Griffith, Indiana.

## Exiles abandoned to a bitter fate

**R**EFUGEES in central Zaire face profound hardship because agencies are no longer helping them, writes **Ruaridh Nicoll** in Shabunda

RESIDENTS of the remote, isolated town of Shabunda in the heart of the Congo delta watched the Dakota lift off from their grass air strip on Thursday, carrying away the Red Cross mission to a 50,000-strong refugee camp that has developed nearby.

With them goes all chance of help for the exhausted Rwandan exiles. The refugee camp at Shabunda, and another of 150,000 people to the north at Lubutu, are filled with refugees who, instead of returning to Rwanda when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is showing little willingness to help. The UN refugee agency's plane was seen recently at Shabunda's airstrip, although its representative chose not to visit the camp.

But this is an improvement. Until recently the UN has refused to believe these people existed.

Twahirwa Narcisse exists. Tired, his clothes in tatters, he sits grimly outside his home of a few sticks and a plastic sheet. He was in Bukavu when he heard the rebels attack and watched people flee.

"I decided to follow," he said. "I couldn't make up my mind what to do, but I had to follow."

Now his shelter is in the

## Rwanda genocide trial opens

**R**WANDA'S first genocide trial opened in Kibungo, south-east of Kigali, yesterday with the accused facing the death penalty if convicted of taking part in the slaughter in 1994 of some 800,000 Tutsis along with moderate Hutus.

Rwandan state radio broadcast live the opening of the trial of Deo Bishimana, a former medical assistant, and Egidie Gatanzu, a former administrator, both accused of organising massacres.

They are the first suspects to be tried under a genocide law. — Reuters.



# Gingrich UN offer linked to reform

Martin Walker  
in Washington

NEWTON GINGRICH, the controversial Republican speaker of the House, has offered President Bill Clinton a deal allowing the United States to pay off the \$1.4 billion (£875 million) it owes the United Nations, as the seal on an agreement to pursue a bipartisan foreign policy which could cut America's share of the UN budget.

According to White House sources, the offer was made at a private meeting before Christmas and has yet to win the backing of powerful Republican senators. It could also run into trouble because of the controversial cuts the Republicans are seeking in the state department's overall budget.

Mr Gingrich offered his "best endeavours" to steer the payment of the US arrears through Congress, in return for firm guarantees of future UN reform. In particular, Mr Gingrich wants the White House to follow the example of other UN members and start billing the organisation for the logistical, intelligence and munitions support that the US provides freely to UN peacekeeping operations.

These represent large sums of money. In 1994 the US was calculated to have provided \$1.2 billion of the UN's total \$3.6 billion peacekeeping budget. But the Pentagon's own figures claim it provided another \$1.7 billion in personnel, equipment and other support. This came directly from the Pentagon budget, although much of it would have been spent anyway.

Under the new formula being proposed by Mr Gingrich, the US could claim that, far from owing \$1.2 billion for peacekeeping, it is owed \$500 million by the UN.

The Republicans are also being advised by Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the conservative former UN ambassador under President Ronald Reagan, that the UN's decision to charge the US 21.7 per cent of the overall (and separate) peacekeeping budget should be challenged. The US pays only 25 per cent of the general budget.

These figures are all to be subject to negotiation — both with the UN and between the White House and Congress — so that the US can speak with one voice, as Mr Gingrich has urged.

But negotiations will be complicated by the separate row over the state department budget and other international spending, including foreign aid. Spend-

ing in real terms has already declined by 40 per cent in the past decade. The 1996 budget-balancing resolution passed by Congress last year would cut the remaining balance by a further 30 per cent over the next six years.

The effects of these cuts have been dramatic. Funds for the Central American peace process had to be raided to aid the West Bank and Gaza. Aid to Turkey was cut to pay for the military intervention in Haiti. The Rwanda operation forced a 15 per cent cut in all other funds for Africa.

"By any measure, the new cuts would profoundly reduce America's stature as a world power," Howard Berman, a Democratic member of the House international relations committee, warned yesterday. "Either aid to Israel would have to be reduced, affecting Israel's military capacity and the peace process, or foreign aid to almost every other country would have to be eliminated. Either 12 of our largest embassies or 100 of the smallest would have to be closed."

The issue is also influenced by domestic politics, since Mr Gingrich's apology to the House ethics committee for misleading their inquiry into his dubious use of charitable funds for political purposes has jeopardised his prospects of being re-elected Speaker on January 7.

Mr Clinton — who sees an advantage in having the Republican majority led by a bruised and ethically embarrassed Speaker as Congress raises his own funding embarrassments — could help reconcile some Democrats to Mr Gingrich's re-election.

The Republicans, meanwhile, appear content with Mr Clinton's nominations of Alberto Fujimori as secretary of state, and Bill Richardson as the new ambassador to the UN.

Noting that the Republicans had no serious differences with the administration's policy on promoting free trade, enlarging Nato, and trying to encourage reform in China through constructive engagement and trade, Mr Gingrich told the president that it was important to stop the UN being "an irritant" in domestic politics.

Only two years ago, Mr Gingrich denounced the UN as "a failed institution in its current form, with grotesque aspirations to be a world government". That view can still be heard among Republicans, but has been softened by opinion polls, which show two-thirds of voters support the UN in principle.

## Peruvian siege reveals horror of prison life

As the hostage crisis continues, Mary Beth Sheridan in Lima looks at the demand to improve rebels' jail conditions

OTILIA POLAY will never forget the shock of seeing her son Victor after his 14 months of solitary confinement.

He had lost 60 lb, she said. He could barely see in the dark for so long. And he complained that security forces had beaten him so badly they had broken his collar bone.

Even today, a year later, the convicted Tupac Amaru terrorist is restricted to a 6ft-by-8ft space. "They're not cells, they're tombs," said his mother, who is permitted to visit him for half an hour a month.

The seizure by leftwing guerrillas of the Japanese ambassador's residence has focused attention on the Tupac Amaru group and the conditions in which its members are held.

Most analysts consider it unlikely that President Alberto Fujimori, who has fiercely fought terrorism, will release rebel leaders from jail. But some say improving prison conditions could help solve the crisis.

"This is an elemental condition for the rebels," said Jaime Antezana, an expert on guerrillas.

While condemning the hostage-taking, Peru's Roman Catholic Church declared that the rebels' insistence on improved prison conditions was "reasonable".

International Red Cross officials also complained that, since the crisis began, the Peruvian government had

banned their usual jail visits checking on terrorism convicts. Steven Anderson, a spokesman, said the agency was "making representations at the highest levels" about the visits.

The Tupac Amaru has consistently condemned the treatment of imprisoned guerrillas and asked, in vain, for telephone contact with them.

Mrs Polay, who runs a hardware store in the Lima suburb of Callao, said even her once-a-month visits to her son had been cut off.

Since his imprisonment, her son, aged 44, has been denied telephone contact with his family and can exercise on a patio for only half an hour a day, she said. The rest of the time he is locked in his cell, receiving meals through a small trap-door and using a hole in the floor for a toilet, she said.

"For 22½ hours a day, he's in a tomb," she declared.

President Fujimori established the prison regime for the guerrillas as part of a broad crackdown in 1992. The system allows rebels to be denied family contact for a year. Even after that, few visits are permitted and prisoners are allocated only 60 cents (40p) a day of food, Susana Silva, of the government's new human rights office, said.

"We have various cases of people going crazy," she said. "You can imagine 22½ hours in a place that's completely closed, having nowhere to walk, no chance to talk."

Still, few Peruvians protest against the prisoners' conditions. Many credit Mr Fujimori's tough approach with crippling the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels, whose war against the state claimed nearly 30,000 lives in the early 1990s.

The Tupac Amaru are not considered as fanatical as Sendero Luminoso. But they receive little public sympathy. — Los Angeles Times.

## Latin America's longest war ends - but at a price



A Guatemalan guerrilla, years younger than the war in which he fought, considers a future without the gun at an encampment south of Guatemala City. PHOTOGRAPH: KIMBERLY WHITE

# Guatemala's 'peace without justice'

Phil Ganson, Latin America Correspondent

ONE of the world's longest running wars officially ends tomorrow with the signing in Guatemala City of a peace treaty between the government of President Alvaro Arzú and the guerrillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

The war, which has been waged with varying degrees

of intensity since November 1960, is generally believed to have cost about 220,000 lives and to have displaced 1 million people, both within Guatemala and into exile in Mexico and Honduras.

It began with an officers' revolt against the military regime led by General Miguel Ydígoras Fuentes, installed after a 1954 coup backed by the United States. But it was not until more than 20 years later that the army formally returned to the barracks.

The "greater loser from the signing of the peace will be the Guatemalan society," said a leading human rights advocate, Román Córdova of the Catholic archdiocese, reflecting a widely held view that

the agreement has reinforced the impunity of those who committed atrocities during the conflict.

Rigoberta Menchú, the Guatemalan indigenous leader who was awarded the Nobel peace prize, is among those who have formed an "alliance against impunity" to protest against the national reconciliation law passed earlier this month which establishes an amnesty.

"I am against a general amnesty," Ms Menchú said when the ceasefire was signed.

"I think peace without justice is only a symbolic peace."

The amnesty law appears to rule out prosecution of those responsible for the army and police atrocities that cost thousands of lives, especially in the counter-insurgency massacres of the early 1980s.

But the URNG leader, Rodrigo Asturias, defended the treaty, saying "the costs of reconciliation are painful but necessary." The guerrilla commander said he believed that in time people would come to understand the "true meaning" of the accord.

Cdr Asturias did not rule out the possibility of an eventual split among the four factions which make up the guerrilla front. The URNG, whose combatants probably number less than 2,000, intends to transform itself into a political party.

In the early 1990s the guerrillas controlled large areas of the Guatemalan highlands, but were almost wiped out in a scorched-earth campaign under the dictatorship of General Efraín Ríos Montt.

## Urban disciples revive fortunes of Colombian shaman

Jeremy Lennard in Bogotá reports on yage, a jungle hallucinogen seducing the middle classes

DRESSED in flowing traditional robes and a jaguar-tooth necklace, Siona rolls his eyes and chants, his concentration focused on a staff of macaw feathers and leaves which he holds in outstretched hands.

Siona is one of the last shamans of the Katma rain-forest Indians, who inhabit the Sibundoy valley in southern Colombia.

His disciples join the chant as he leaps up. He shakes his wand over their heads, and administers a thimbleful of vile-tasting brown liquid to each.

In a ritual which dates back 1,000 years, the Indians have gathered to take yage — a powerful hallucinogen and purgative central to their religious rites. The drug, extracted by boiling the bark of a jungle vine, induces profoundly altered states: the participant's soul appears to leave

his body in animal form and embark on a magical, cleansing journey.

"We all have the pure spirit of the animal world inside us," says Siona. "Our souls ascend into this domain, where we maintain communication with our ancestors. The spirits show us divine truth and guide us through our terrestrial lives in harmony."

As Colombia strives to join the ranks of the developed world, such ceremonies are in rapid decline. But yage, like coca before it, has survived the transition from the ancient to the modern world. It may not join cocaine as a multi-million-pound earner for the mafia, but the drug is becoming increasingly popular in mainstream Colombian society.

Shamans now travel regularly to Bogotá, where they have found new disciples in the professional

classes. In hundreds of dimly lit middle-class living rooms, executives in sharp suits have been getting cosmic together.

"Yage has been popular for many years among the bohemian circle of artists, actors and writers," says Pedro Chindoy, who has studied the spread of the drug.

William Burroughs and Alan Ginsberg experimented with it, and wrote a book on their experiences. But Mr Chindoy observes, yage's wider popularity is a recent phenomenon.

"In many ways, a drug which binds body and soul so strongly with nature is strangely out of place in a city like Bogotá," he says. "But maybe it is the complete escape from one's urban surroundings, and the subsequent feeling of cleansing, which is so appealing."

"A drug bonding body and soul with nature is strangely out of place in Bogotá"

and who has never been back to the sessions.

Mr Osorio and his colleague Javier Lasso are yage devotees. They have been attending weekly rituals for more than a year, and are "in training" to become shamans.

This is a lengthy process: the would-be medicine men must first learn how to call up the spirits. They must also assess their tolerance of the drug, using weight, metabolism and psychological state to determine the right dosage.

"When you take yage, you must put yourself entirely in the hands of the shaman," Mr Osorio says. "You are at his mercy."

Unlike many habitual users of hallucinogenics, he and Mr Lasso seem surprisingly down-to-earth. But their paintings are vivid representations of their visions. Mr Osorio assumes the form of a crocodile, Mr Lasso a condor. Both are waited on by lesser creatures.

Their paintings do not show the unpleasant initial effect of yage. As a purgative, it induces violent vomiting and diarrhoea.

It is hard to imagine Roberto and friends coping with this among the white-leather sofas and deep-pile carpets of fashionable north Bogotá.

Yage is also attracting attention from academics. Researchers are investigating indigenous claims that the so-called "vine of the soul" has wide-ranging medicinal properties.

Scientists in the United States have recently discovered that harmaline, one of its active components, is effective against Leishmaniasis, a parasite-borne disease affecting the skin.

A bank manager who had visions of fire and brimstone has never been back

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### News in brief

#### US airports get X-ray scanners

Sophisticated X-ray machines designed to detect explosives in checked baggage will begin arriving in United States airports next month.

#### Rowdy passenger

Canadian police said a flight from Europe to Chicago was diverted to Goose Bay, Newfoundland, after a drunken 41-year-old man from Blackpool allegedly assaulted an elderly passenger. The man had to be restrained by the crew. — AP.

#### McDonald's attack

A gunman charged into a McDonald's restaurant in Vallejo, California, and shot three female employees in the head before escaping, police said. One of the victims, aged 17, is in a critical condition and the others are stable. — AP.

#### Out of tune

A Dutch woman, aged 55, became so enraged with her husband singing the carol Silent Night for several hours that she stabbed him in the chest, police said. He is recovering in hospital. — Reuter.

## Rioting Indonesians target non-Muslims

John Agiloney in Jakarta

RIOTS rocked the Indonesian province of West Java for the second consecutive day yesterday in what appeared to be racially motivated violence against the local Christians and Chinese.

Dozens of angry Muslims looted and torched a number of shops in the small town of Ciawi, 125 miles south-east of the capital Jakarta, before hundreds of troops and police restored order.

No deaths were reported but it emerged that two people had died in Thursday's mass unrest in the nearby town of Tasikmalaya. One was a Chinese woman, aged 45, who was burnt alive trying to save her car-parts shop from an angry mob.

The violence was provoked by rumours that police in Tasikmalaya had beaten up three Islamic teachers, apparently for disciplining one of the officers' sons.

Thousands of people rampaged through the town for 12 hours on Thursday. They

burnt 13 churches, seven schools, dozens of banks, car showrooms and shops, and stoned the police station.

Most of the properties were owned by Christians or people of Chinese descent. Chinese are resented in Indonesia because they make up fewer than 3 per cent of the 195 million population but control almost 75 per cent of the economy.

The rioters scrawled graffiti on walls saying "No to Jews", "No to Muslims" and "Police are supercorrupt". More than 150 people were detained.

Three thousand security personnel closed off much of Tasikmalaya yesterday, which was described as "calm but tense" by locals.

President Suharto called for calm and religious unity for calm and religious unity last night in what is the country's largest Muslim country.

Speaking at a post-Christmas civil ceremony, he said: "I believe that most religious people in this country are able to control themselves... but they should be mature and practise self-restraint,



Indonesian firefighters tackle a church set ablaze during riots in Tasikmalaya, West Java. PHOTOGRAPH: PIRHAN RAKYAT

صالح من الأعمال



Jean-Pierre Guerlain

# The essence of success

**J**EAN-PIERRE Guerlain, who has died aged 51, was born into a flourishing family business based on the new and exciting turn of the century need for a range of make-up and toiletry products which could be used by a lady without putting her at risk of being confused with a courtesan.

The firm of Guerlain was already well established in Paris and was considered one of the most prestigious perfume houses in Europe. It had long enjoyed royal patronage. Jean-Pierre's grandfather, a chemist who had set himself up in business in 1828, was perfumer to King Charles X, the ill-starred Bourbon of whom it was said that if he did not know how to rule, he at least knew how to cease to rule. He went into exile with an exemplary lack of fuss. While he was still on the throne, Guerlain created a special cologne, Eau de Cologne Imperial, which, as was said, should have been called Eau de Cologne Infinitesimal. Guerlain also created a cologne for Balzac, a much more powerful and demanding perfume than the others. Guerlain's children broadened the scope of Guerlain by producing what many would consider the greatest — and certainly some of the earliest — French fragrances: *Hicky* (1889), *L'Heure Bleue* (1912), *Mitsouko* (1919) and *Shalimar* (1925). They were the basis of the firm's wealth for the entire 20th century.

But Jean-Pierre, who had studied science and received a doctorate from the University of Paris, was a businessman as well as a creative

chemist and he was not content merely to sit back and enjoy the profits from the early efforts. He was one of the first men in the Paris beauty business to realise, as the movies began to reveal, the exciting prospects and opportunities possible in make-up, that it was a beauty business. In the 1920s, entranced by what they saw on the screen, women wanted the glamour of make-up — so long considered not suitable for "nice" women. They clamoured for discreet powder, rouge, and, above all, the sort of lipstick which shone forth in the movies — rich, glossy and sensuous.

Guerlain was ready to feed the appetite. In 1938, he opened the Guerlain Beauty Institute on the Champs Elysees, as a flagship for the firm; an experimental centre and a place where the latest developments in treatments and health care could be found.

**B**UT PERHAPS the most important and long-reaching aspect of the institute was that it housed one of Europe's first scientifically-based schools of beauty where traditional home-made recipes — some nearer to which brews than anything a sane woman would put on her face — were turned into rigorously tested products, which could be guaranteed safe for mass production and consumption.

As a scientist, Guerlain was very conscious of the dangers of the untried and untested. He introduced stringent quality control programmes to check the safety of every product bearing his firm's label. Each department was



Jean-Pierre Guerlain... the firm bearing his name has created more than 300 fragrances

Giuseppe Dossetti

# Ethical society Italian-style

**G**IUSEPPE Dossetti, who has died aged 83, was a teacher and a priest, partisan and politician, founding father of the Italian republic and guiding spirit of left-wing Italian Catholicism.

Born in Genoa he joined the resistance in the Emilia in 1943. This was dominated by the communists with whom Dossetti had, throughout his life, a love-hate relationship. His commitment to a "solidarist" conception of religion made them his natural allies but also chief competitors for hearts and souls. In March 1945, in a circular letter to the priests of the mountain parishes near Reggio Emilia, he revealed that the resurgent Catholic Party (DC), under the leadership of Alcide De Gasperi, as prime minister, was busy engaged in the reconstruction of a political system which excluded the communists from power for more than 50 years. Dossetti was establishing with them the foundation of a constitutional settlement which is still extant. He supported De Gasperi's coalition with the PCI because he thought it would lead to the creation of a new state enjoying genuine popular legitimacy. De Gasperi's motivations were more tactical: the coalition would help maintain social peace while the young republic made its first faltering steps.

The practical consequence of this was a constitution committed to the notion that the public good, social cohesion and equality were more important than property rights, and that the state should not be a substitute for individuals and communities but a facilitator of their pursuits. However, without a political system and a government devoted to these tasks, they remained vague aspirations.

For a short while, Dossetti was the main reference point for those Catholics engaged in the search for a moral, communist and non-capitalist path for Italy. They lost all the battles they fought. They opposed the expulsion of the socialists and the communists from the government in 1947, membership of Nato, and the growing Americanisation of Italian culture. Nevertheless, some of Dossetti's erstwhile followers, such as Amintore Fanfani and Aldo Moro, played a key role in Italian politics. The present prime minister, Romano Prodi, died one of his last disciples.



Dossetti... austere figure

refused to make him a bishop, he expressed, without a trace of sarcasm, his gratitude for "another favour granted by His Holiness". In 1973 Dossetti went to Jordan to establish religious communities and study Islam and Judaism. He returned to Italy in the 1980s. His name was still bandied about in political circles, but most ordinary Italians no longer remembered who he was.

The main features of his thought were a distrust of the state, a commitment to social solidarity, the importance of the autonomy of the human personality, and a suspicion of individualism disconnected from any obligations towards the community. There could be no individual freedom without social responsibilities. In modern Britain, Dossetti would be an anti-Thatcherite communist.

After his retirement Dossetti's prestige grew in proportion to his declining political impact. He became a name to whom many paid lip-service — from communists keen to belittled Catholics to grubby politicians in search of a moral conscience. Dossetti had become a myth while still alive. As Italian political Catholicism attempts to recover from the demise of the DC, Dossetti's name will be invoked with even greater vigour. The task will be easier without his uncomfortable presence.



Economides... battles in Spain

Michael Economides

# Strong voice against fascism

**E**ARLY last month Michael Economides, who has died aged 96, read a poem to 12,000 people in Madrid's Palace of Sports. The occasion was a concert in honour of the International Brigades on the 50th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War, and in fulfilment of a promise of honorary citizenship made to members of the brigades all those years ago.

Michael had been ill, but he had insisted on going to Madrid, and while his body was frail, his voice was powerful as he recited, in impeccable Spanish, a long poem by Rafael Alberti dedicated to the brigades. Twenty days later, and back in England, he died.

Michael was born in Nicosia, the son of a wheat merchant. As a 16-year-old he left

Cyprus for Latin America, but an attack of conjunctivitis delayed him in Marseilles and he decided to go on to London. He arrived in 1929 and found it difficult to get a job, which together with anti-colonialist stirrings in Cyprus, and the Daily Worker, politicised him. He joined the League Against Imperialism and the Communist Party in 1932. This was he forever committed to stand against bullies, large or small.

In 1936, he left for Spain to fight for the republic against General Franco's fascists. He became a captain, and fought in some of the bloodiest battles including El Jarama, where he was shot in the leg, and El Ebro, where he received a serious wound in the chest. In Spain he met Ralph Fox, George Orwell,

Krishna Menon and Jawaharlal Nehru, among others. Back in England, he became active in the struggle for Cyprus's independence, was a founder member and secretary of the Committee for Cyprus Affairs, and helped to found the Cyprus newspaper *Vema*. In 1958 he was in the Cypriot delegation — which also included Cyprus's current president, Glafkos Clerides — at the Paris Peace Conference.

Between 1948 and 1968 he had a restaurant and after his wife, his son and daughter-in-law Clara, and two grandchildren.

Michael Economides, restaurateur, born January 17, 1910; died November 25, 1996

## Weekend Birthdays

**I**F YOUR mother was a columnist (Anne Scott James) and your father a newspaper correspondent (Macdonald Hastings), your chances of ending up in journalism must be fairly high. So it was for Max Hastings, 51 today, whose only other ambition — to be a paratrooper — was frustrated by his great height. Critics (and there are many) say that even after more than 10 years as a newspaper editor, first at the Daily Telegraph, now the London Evening Standard, his quest to be a gentleman spy and correspondent (a sort of latter-day Winston Churchill) remains frustrated. Friends (of whom there are more) counter that he's just too good a hack to be a



Max Hastings... insufficiently Eurosceptic to satisfy Conrad Black and so fiercely competitive that he drives colleagues into paroxysms, he retains that key quality of good reporter

Intikhab Alam, Pakistan cricket manager, 55; Lew Ayres, actor, 88; Terry Butcher, football manager, 38; William Camps, former master, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 86; Donald Carr, cricket manager, 70; Sandra Faber, American astronaut, 52; Thomas Gould VC, 82; Roy Hattersley, Labour MP, journalist, 64; Noel Johnson, actor, 80; Nigel Kennedy, violinist, 48; Frances Morris, former leader, ILEA, 58; Hildegard Neff, actress, singer and writer, 71; Bridget Prentice, Labour MP, 44; Simon Raven, author, playwright, 58; Joan Raddock, Labour MP, 53; Dame Maggie Smith, actress, 62; Richard Sud-

halter, writer, jazz musician, 58; the Rt Rev Bill Westwood, broadcaster and former Bishop of Peterborough, 71.

**Tomorrow's birthdays:** June, Marchdomest of Aberdeen and Telfair (Anne Gordon), musical director and conductor, 83; Andrew Bache, ambassador to Denmark, 57; Lord Beauchamp, former president, Conservative Party, 48; David Boon, cricketer, 36; Sir Samuel Brittan, economic commentator, 63; Bernard Cribbins, actor, 68; Keith Cressan, rugby player, 37; Ann Demeulemeester, fashion designer, 37; Baroness Denton, Northern Ireland

Economy Minister, 61; Marianne Faithfull, singer, 50; Roger Hart, ambassador to Angola, 53; Sir Simon Horby, president, Royal Horticultural Society, 62; Terry Lewis, Labour MP, 61; Mary Tyler Moore, television executive and actress, 60; Martin Offiah, Rugby League international, 30; Iain Paxton, rugby player, 38; Rosalind Freston, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 61; Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist MP, 48; Alan Rusbridger, editor, the Guardian, 43; the Rt Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 83; Harvey Smith, showjumper, 58; Jon Vaught, actor, 58.

## Face to Faith

# Pagans and the first festival of light

**T**HE PAGAN revels of the year's end have a long history and a deep meaning. From the solstice eve (Day ceremony 20) to New Year's Eve (Day ceremony 21) and the winter's gloom and hardship, and celebrate the imminent return of the light.

Paganism with a capital "P" is the nature-venerating religious tradition of Europe, which sees the turning of the seasons as expressing the ever-changing appearance of divine reality, greater than we can fully grasp and often inscrutable in its meaning.

In winter he is Hades, Zeus, when spring begins. The Sun in summer. In autumn, delicate Iacchus.

This is what the second-century worshippers of Iao, the cosmic principle, were told by

Apollo's oracle at Delphi. Earlier forms of Pagan religion had already given the Gracchian Roman world the three great year-end festivals which have endured into modern times. These have been adopted subsequently by different belief systems such as modern Christianity, secularism and Paganism.

Our customs of giving presents, having fun and games, and holding a ceremonial feast at midwinter comes directly from the Roman Saturnalia (December 17), probably the oldest festival of them all. The Romans understood Saturn to be their ancestor, god of agriculture and of plenty, and sometimes (wrongly) explained his name as being that of the god of the seeds which were sown at about this time. The ritual gift-giving was understood as a redistribution of wealth from rich to poor at the seasonal time of greatest

hardship, likewise the feasting, at which richer neighbours entertained the poor and poorer people shared their meagre reserves to create a larger meal than they could have had alone.

The satirist Lucian even suggested that before each Saturnalia the rich should ceremonially purge their houses of messiness, avarice and greed, then formally invoke the blessings of three gods: Zeus, giver of wealth, Hermes the bestower, and Apollo of the great gifts. The ancients not only complained, as we do, of the crass materialism of this season, but were able to propose a religious ceremony to transform avarice into generosity with the help of the gods.

The solstice feast of Mithras, god of light (in Roman times it was December 25, the date adopted by Christians by the year 354 AD as the birth-

day of Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness), added an extra dimension to the midwinter festival. This time of year marks the renewal of hope, celebrated in the Scandinavian tradition by a ceremony for "new growth". In Rome, the old invocation of the fruits of light and warmth was mounted among followers of the solar religion by a meditation on the principle of light, and on the eternity of renewal, in which dark and light, hardship and plenty, mystery and revelation succeed each other in the flux of time.

**F**OR MODERN Pagans, too, the winter solstice, often called Yule from Scandinavian tradition or Mother-Night from Anglo-Saxon, is a time of celebrating the hidden light. It allows us to experience through ritual the knowledge that the reality of returning life is stronger

than the appearance of universal death. Rites may vary from a simple meditation to a full-scale ceremony enacting the return of the goddess or god of the sun, but the principle is the same: that at this point in the scheme of things, darkness will give way to illumination.

Finally we come to New Year's Eve, the start of the calendar year. The ancient Kalends of January was marked by torchlight processions, the singing of songs, masquerades, fortune telling and the custom of decorating houses with greenery, which has now moved back to Yuletide. It was dedicated to Janus, the gate-keeper god who looked both forward and back.

Presents were given at the Kalends too, symbolising good luck for the coming year. The processions, perhaps meant for purification, might alternatively be seen as depicting the passage from one year to the next. In masquerades, nothing is quite as it seems, while fortune-telling is a way of dealing with people's nervousness when brought face to face with an unknown new year. The greenery, of course,

celebrates new life. All these features still characterise modern new year festivities, although masquerades has moved to Christmas pantomimes and the few remaining mummers' plays. New Year is a time of purification and invocation, letting go of what is old and calling in what is good. "Out with the old, in with the new," people shout as they toast the season, calling not on Janus but on Old Father Time with his sickle to mow down the past.

Pagans join in the festivities well, but for the true New Year is usually the solstice, or even earlier at the start of winter. Fear of the unknown is not our principal feeling as we face the coming 12 months, but a serenity in the knowledge that although the face of divinity changes, divinity itself remains active behind the mysterious workings of the world. Out with the old and in with the new, and may Janus bless the transition.

Prudence Jones is a past president of the Pagan Federation and co-author of *A History of Pagan Europe* (Routledge, 1995)

## Dafydd Orwig

**T**HE CAREFULLY articulated support for the Welsh language of Dafydd Orwig, who has died aged 68, never wavered. His objective was to ensure that Welsh, spoken by more than 70 per cent of the people in his own county, Gwynedd, became the main official language in that part of the country. He combined long local government service with a command of and deep affection for his native language.

Thirty years ago the rights of Welsh speakers were heavily circumscribed, and the idea that a public authority should conduct its business in Welsh was a dream. But gradually, thanks to the efforts of Orwig and others, changes, such as simultaneous translation in the council chamber, were introduced.

Born in Ddinllyn, north Wales, he took a geography degree at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He taught at secondary schools in Blaenau Ffestiniog and Bethesda before becoming a lecturer at Bangor Normal College, a teacher training establishment. He chaired Gwynedd education committee from 1985 to 1987 and his election this year as chairman of the new Gwynedd authority was thoroughly deserved.

A former chairman of the European Board of Lesser Used Languages, he became chairman of the Welsh Books Council in 1994. One of his most notable achievements was to edit the massive *Welsh Atlas*.

Uncharacteristically for candidates in parts of rural Wales, he always stood for Plaid Cymru during the long years when "Independents" held sway. Perhaps his example led to the outing of independents as nationalists when the new authorities were elected. Plaid now controls Gwynedd with 45 out of 63 seats.

He was one of the first in

Wales to drop the surname Jones, a play followed by other Joneses. And his entry in *VIP Wales*, a reference book listing some 1,700 prominent Welsh people, is unique in that it appears in the language he loved.

**Tony Heath**

Dafydd Orwig [Jones], language campaigner, and local politician, born September 17, 1928; died November 10, 1996

## Death Notices

**LUNETTE** - Sadly, aged 80, on Sunday morning, 22nd December, in St Joseph's Hospital, Cardiff and gentry, in St Joseph's Hospital, Cardiff. Her life, her voice, was soft and low, an excellent thing in a woman, but it reached out to touch the lives of countless others with tenderness, sympathy and love. Her family, which will be quiet and for family and her closest friends, will be at home on Tuesday 2nd February, 10.30 at St Giles, where all who come to bid adieu will be warmly and gratefully received. Her funeral will be at 4.00pm on Saturday, 15th February, 1997, at St Giles, where all who come to bid adieu will be warmly and gratefully received. Her funeral will be at 4.00pm on Saturday, 15th February, 1997, at St Giles, where all who come to bid adieu will be warmly and gratefully received. Her funeral will be at 4.00pm on Saturday, 15th February, 1997, at St Giles, where all who come to bid adieu will be warmly and gratefully received.

**SWAN** Dr David N.B. (L.M.M.S.B.S.), of Bangor, died on 21st December 1996, aged 71 years. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics, and a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics, and a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics.

**WELSH** Mrs Robert, died 20th December 1996, aged 80 years. She was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics, and a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics.

**ROBERTSON** Mrs. We are pleased to announce the engagement of Laura Robertson, daughter of Ian Robertson and Mrs Margaret Robertson, originally of Irvine, Scotland, to Paul Sykes, son of Anthony and Isabelle Sykes of Glasgow.

**WELSH** Mrs Robert, died 20th December 1996, aged 80 years. She was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics, and a past president of the British Society of Geriatrics.

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Letters to the Editor

Non-personality of the year

THERE is something seriously wrong with our country when a professional politician, who after all is only doing a rather mediocre job, is voted Personality of the Year...

FOUR thousand dodgy votes rejected for the winner of the Today Personality of the Year poll and the result is allowed to stand. A leaked copy of a fax exhorting members and activists to vote and the prospective recipient is disqualified...

PERSONAL computer equipped with a modem and telephone line can be programmed to dial the same number repeatedly. Assuming that it would take 10 seconds to complete one call, and allowing for half of the calls to meet an engaged signal, one computer could register 360 votes in two hours...

IN order for anyone to win the Today Personality of the Year Award, should they not possess one first? Flat 5, 247 Portsmouth Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 3JL

Why stopping the clicks on the phone won't save us

I AM not surprised that there is cross-party support for the "new" powers in the Police Bill. Like Meg Hendersson (How I became a dangerous terrorist, December 19), nearly half the population of Brighton became "dangerous terrorists" when Essex...

Those deemed by police to be our "leaders" complained frequently of the clicks and disconnections described by Meg Hendersson in her mention of suspected phone-tapping. No one can prove their line has been tapped, nor will the police admit it, so the unsuspecting majority will never believe it goes on...

The parenting deficit

Hail the Family Minister: Who?

JACK STRAW made a basic error: timing. If only he had held his discussion paper on parenting back for just six more weeks, he would have received a more sympathetic hearing. What better time to promote a national debate on parenting than immediately after Christmas and Boxing Day...

It is now 20 years since Mia Kalimer Pringle, the former director of the National Children Bureau, wrote that just because we have once been children does not mean we know how to bring children up in her words: "Modern parenthood is too demanding and complex a task to be performed well merely because we have all once been children..."

All commentators should be wary of political parties wanting to tell parents how to bring up families. But this was not what was proposed. The main aim was to extend existing voluntary schemes, improve parenting education in schools, and increase access to advice lines...

Santa's gravy sleigh

High on pay, low on people

THERE is one event that, sadly, is becoming as predictable as Christmas and the New Year: the annual survey of salaries showing how those at the top are feathering their own nests at the expense of those below. Once this habit starts, it seems to develop into a financial drug that is extremely difficult to shake off...

Such maldistribution of incomes wouldn't matter so much if high pay encouraged directors to take risks they wouldn't otherwise have made in order to increase the wealth available to everyone in the company...

A market as safe as houses

PETER Kenway and Guy Palmer (How government should put a brake on the housing cycle, December 23) suggest that history is destined to repeat itself with another downturn in the housing market...

U ministers recently discussed how a right to a decent home for their citizens might be created; characteristically, our Conservative government rejected the idea...

Foxed by the hunters

STEPHEN Moss may have spent a day with the Beaufort Hunt (Scout of a battle, December 27) but I hope he does not think this means he now understands the hunt. The hunt is known to be on their best behaviour when they have a journalist with them...

They have been doing with funding for housing associations and universities, to give just two examples. The CML view is that the future will not be like the past and that less money has been learned...

Requiring lenders to invest in new, low-cost homes for rent, as well as in the refurbishment of the 800,000 empty or unfit homes that stand idle, would enable the task of additional provision to begin, yet we must be in no doubt that proper public funding for extra homes will be necessary...

This is your captain speaking

THE "emergency meeting of senior executives of Airbus to decide on how to avoid being driven out of the world aviation market by the newly enlarged Boeing (Airbus fights for survival, December 15) exists only in the mind of your writer. Airbus Industrie is owned by the "enlarged Boeing". It has a solid grip on...



The space between words

THE arrogant ignorance and cultural condescension of Sebastian Faulks (Diary of the week, December 24) are all too common in the media, particularly in relation to this country, where our absurdly specialised education system means that scientists get little education in how to communicate to a wider public...

life trying to overcome the ignorance of science and the condescension towards scientists by the literati who dominate the media world. This is particularly so in this country, where our absurdly specialised education system means that scientists get little education in how to communicate to a wider public...

Auntie goes out in the world

WHILE most departments within the BBC World Service appear to have been given a breathing space (Tensions eased by cash cover for World Service, December 27), the same cannot be said of the Cantonese service. Its actual existence will still be trimmed by next April...

coming under threat and self-censorship by the Hong Kong media is already rampant. It is particularly disappointing when British ministers keep talking about their interest and responsibilities in Hong Kong but without delivery. The talk of replacing conventional radio broadcasts by the Internet is premature. Internet usage in Hong Kong is not yet common enough...

A Country Diary

MAECHYNLETH: For my pre-Christmas walk I chose the sea cliffs, following a path through acres of gorse whose bright yellow flowers did their best to fool me into believing that spring was here already...

Also verdant along the pathside was another oddly named little plant, parsley plant, forming delicately beautiful pale green mats. And the new leaves of pennywort, round and fleshy, had already half-covered a wall. The wind blew cold off the land, leaving the sea immediately below quite untrifled. But further offshore, the silver green waters of Cardigan Bay were flecked with white horses and if there were dolphins out there, as I had hoped, there were well concealed. Fulmars patrolled endlessly back and forth close to the cliffs, practising mock landings without ever achieving a touch down...

Off to 1997 with a bang, a baby and a Bible



Mark Lawson

JUST as Christmas names often fit people in history - all those forty-two-year-old English "Elizabeths", born around the Coronation, all those Kyles and Jasons in primary schools, a legacy of Australian culture's zenith - so years become associated with names. A flick through the database of 1996's broadsheet newspapers, reveals that the last 12 months has seen the unexpected emergence of "morality" (1,766 stories) and "spasm" (775 stories), while "guns" has surpassed itself with 3,732 news stories. Here, in three words, you have the story of the year: guns (Dunblane), spasm (Dandy Allwood), Diane Blood drove Britain to think of morality. In such times, it seemed useful to review the pronouncements of the nation's moral leaders on their biggest day: December 25. On Wednesday, the Queen addressed a television and radio congregation, while the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York and the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Westminster spoke to cathedral crowds. Amid calls for moral leadership, what was offered? The Queen's message will provide rich material for future students of the decline of monarchy. Although "the Queen's English" has come to stand for simplicity and clarity, this annual chunk of the monarch's own language is increasingly marked by ambiguity and omission. Look at how discreetly she dealt with the dictatorships over which she reigns: "In October, I opened Parliament... symbolic of the process of parliamentary democracy which we enjoy here in Britain and in so many countries of the Commonwealth." My italics, her finesse. But the paragraph's hidden change is yet to be detonated: "At such times, it is tempting to look back and say 'if only'." But to look back in that way is to look down a blind alley. Given that the most widespread application of the phrase "if only" to Dunblane

was in reference to Hamilton's weapons, those sentences can reasonably be read as a rejection of gun control legislation. After her coded political intervention - and support for her husband - the Queen came out with unexpected favour as Head of the Church of England. For the Dunblane parents, who should not dream of a world in which Hamilton was denied handguns, might instead "look forward and say 'if only'." If only we can live up to the example of the child who was born at Christmas with a love that came to embrace the whole world. One in the eye there for her own child, born in November 1948, who has expressed an interest in being "defender of faiths" rather than Christianity. The Queen's new insistence on her religious role was equalled by the zeal of the church hierarchies in their Christmas sermons. Recent ecclesiastical pronouncements have been marked by what is either, according to your prejudice, relativism and pusillanimity or cultural sensitivity and social maturity. This Christmas, a holder notes was struck. The Archbishop of Canterbury identified a society "adrift from its moral, historical and institutional roots." However, Dr Carey was gladdened by what he saw as the prevalence of "spiritual refugees", who were "seeking a home." He urged them to turn to Christ. The Archbishop of York warned that "darkness and evil are never very far from us" and Cardinal Hume reminded English Catholics that they belonged to a tradition in which believers had once been prepared to die for their faith; their own voices must be prepared to shout that "God became man and dwelt among us." So, either by conspiracy or coincidence, the Queen and the leaders of both her own church and the other main religions have responded to the terrors and uncertainties of 1996 with a call for a Christian revival in a country where secularism and multiculturalism have risen in significance. This may amount to shutting the Bethlehem stable door after the ox and the ass have bolted. For the Queen, who calls for her subjects to listen to the teaching of her church, has a daughter who was forced to re-marry under Scottish canon law and a son whose personal life may require the application of scri-

ors and paste to the Coronation service. And, though the Archbishop of Canterbury is right about the phenomenon of "spiritual refugees", many of these wanderers after God will pass by the refuge camp of Christianity for the more alluring border encampments of New Age spirituality. While Cardinal Hume invokes the example of the martyrs, the Catholic Church, contemplates a reduction in the obligation to attend mass because research shows that the faithful find the discipline too hard. The Bishop of Lincoln, unable to preach in his own cathedral because of the ecclesiastical career wars being fought among its prelates, may seem a more honest spokesman of the state of British Christianity in 1996. And, in his message, an counselling the familiar ritual in which her heir and her grandchild renounce around with hunting guns on Boxing Day might have been a more practical contribution. After this, the score stands at 3,733 for guns, 1,767 for morality and 776 for spasm. And the nouns of 1997 wait to be born.

Off the pitch

YOU report (Sports pages, December 21) that Falkirk FC have dismissed their manager for "fielding an ineligible player". This seems a gross miscarriage of justice. If Heighly had not joined the growing list of soccer's sackings offences, should it not rather be the editor of the match programme who carries the can? Mike Gaultrey, 22 The Green, Woodhouse, Wokingham, Berks RG41 3PG.

Science funding is unscientific PROFESSOR McClintock of Leicester University (Letter, December 23) is not the only academic whose physics department is upset by the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) results. We, in Salford, have been classified A despite strong evidence of an international profile and the fact that we have produced a very respectable average of £90,000 per year of research funding per researcher. The particular claim to fame of Salford physics, however, is that 40 per cent of this considerable funding comes from industry, etc, as opposed to the research councils. A recent Institute of Physics report identified us as one of the top departments in terms of earnings from industry and we have recently reported to other physics professors on how we have achieved this result. The RAE assessment must have ignored this work. The message that the RAE has sent out to the physics community is therefore quite clear - direct effort to make the results of your fundamental research available to industry and get less money from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). This message is in strange contrast to the claim of physics by the Office of Science and Technology which, last year, cut the subject's total funding, partly because, overall, it had attracted so little industrial funding. We were advised to strive for the proportion of industrial funding achieved by chemistry, which, ironically,

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# Why we're not yet at the end of history

**Commentary**  
**Martin Woollacott**

**C**HRISTMAS is, among other things, a history lesson. From the original event, in a corner of an imperial province, through the subsequent success of Christianity in the late Empire's contest for belief, Christmas has always reflected changes in our civilisation.

Untypical expression is the European Union. Whether this is a descent or an ascent is a matter of judgment, but also a matter of importance. What is clear is that, with only three more Christmases before the millennium, what Fritz Stern called "society's growing demand for history" is growing still. For many generations now, men and women in Europe and America have expected to find in the study of the past a key to meaning, a sense of location, and an idea of the future.

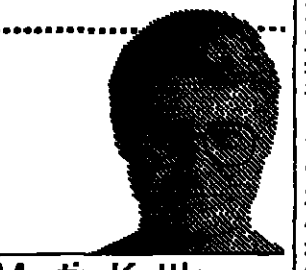
liarily reluctant to give direct answers, but that it enriches the process of choice.

competition and warfare, and by the innovation and administrative skills that they induced, is attempting "to enjoy the economic and entrepreneurial dynamism of continental scale while, at the same time, enjoying the advantages of national sovereignty". China, approaching the problem from the other direction, is trying to cope with the diversity that a modernised economy demands while maintaining centralised political control.

much to create. The medieval record can remind us of the deep-rooted nature of certain tendencies still with us today. For example, the concept that "it would be a good thing if the whole world were submitted to the French kingdom" was already around in 1300, according to another essay in the Copenhagen collection.

stable relationship with Russia. Yet many are dubious that the first will be rapid or complete, or that the second will achieve anything except to make the third impossible. The fascinatingly named Polish ruler Boleslaw the Wry-mouthed (1102-1138), who figures in one of the book's many engaging lists, might have to be brought back to life to underline — by his expression — the fragile nature of Western Europe's commitment to Eastern Europe even today.

## Tied by apron strings



Martin Kettle

**C**OLUMNISTS are supposed to be paid for their opinions rather than for their knowledge. But, even in these shamelessly fact-free times, there is a limit. And a columnist who confesses to being ignorant is taking a bit of a risk with his credibility, even today.

suits from similar backgrounds to your own. No, there must be a deeper incentive for being a mason. From what one can judge, that incentive seems to be the security and self-esteem which masonry fosters among those who join. I don't think this is necessarily sinister. In fact it strikes me more as sad. The men that I see emerging from the Freemasons' Hall from time to time clasping their absurd little masonic cases in their hands don't fill me with fear but with pity.

# Only in it for the money

The National Lottery and the Millennium Commission: the perfect symbols of 90s Britain, laments **Nicholas Fraser**

**A**BOVE my desk hang two 18th-century prints by William Hogarth. One of them depicts a group of skinny Frenchmen at Calais, eating frogs' legs and garlic spiced-roast on a sword.



he didn't care where the money came from as long as it arrived in his hands. Overwhelmingly greenish, the winning projects appeared to have come from the junk room that is the traditional repository of British middle-class pastoralism.

I WENT one evening not long ago to see the National Lottery show at the BBC, because everyone I knew hated it so much and because I wanted to find out what the fuss was about. Beside me in the front row were two French girls attending language school, a hyperactive teenage boy with a calculator phone, and a retired couple from Lancashire who were holding hands. With the French girls, I complained about the make, such as 18th-century Britain, could afford a few simple and durable symbols, but in the state of post-decline no such leisurely attachments are available.

Lancelot, a cheap-looking machine made of ungainly plastic pipes and filled with ping-pong balls. Ms Bassey pressed a button, and in a matter of seconds we had six new numbers. Like myself, the couple next to me had failed to choose even one of them.

insight or venal politicians. Professionally over-familiar with the indices of national decline in another country, but in today's Britain, significantly — it had not. The tabloid press, when not filled with hard-luck stories, tended to recount, as cautionary tales, the appalling life that had befallen winners: burglaries, ostracism by neighbours, nervous breakdowns.

people could be parted from their money was kept carefully opaque, shrouded by the mysteries of social acceptability. Even the over-weening ventures of Robert Maxwell, who in 1981 fell or was pushed (or jumped) over the side of his yacht, were at least stamped with the warped grandeur of the 1960s.

READ through the list of projects approved by the Millennium Commission, and I called some of the grant recipients. What did the creation of a 2,500-mile cycle route, return to the British Isles of the Scottish beaver, or the creation of a cryogenic "bank" of British plant seeds have to do with the millennium?

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RICHARD THOMAS in Washington on Michael Bloomberg, the machine-made man

# Screen star basks in billionaire role

## Reputations

**M**ODESTY does not come easily to Michael Bloomberg. Reclining in the corner of a glass-partitioned meeting room at his Park Avenue headquarters, walls plastered with framed articles about himself, he takes a sip of coffee and says: "Every once in a while, I get kind of pleased with myself."

As he well might: in 15 years he has created a \$600 million (£357 million) financial information company which employs 2,000 people across the globe, in the process taking the props from underneath Reuters' long-standing hegemony ("Isn't that a little British company?") and making himself extremely rich.

"People say I'm worth a billion," he shrugs. "Just pick a number." At 53, Bloomberg is still as cocky as a teenager. He says he hasn't changed since the days he worked in the faculty car-park at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"Maybe a few more grey hairs and wrinkles, a couple of extra pounds round the middle. But I'm still the same know-all as I ever was."

His telephone manner is brisk: "Yep, speak. Don't care." Democratic Senator Barbara McCluskey? "Give her voice-mail."

Bloomberg is not the sort of man to rise smoothly through the ranks of a faceless corporation, as he discovered when he was thrown off Salomon's equity trading floor in 1981. "I kept going round saying I could run the company better than them, that they were getting it wrong," he explains. "I was pretty vocal."

Creating a media empire that spans trading screens, radio, magazines, TV and books has allowed him to hone his skills in self-publicity. Apart from simple satisfaction, the justification for the constant emphasis on the Bloomberg name is branding, one of the keys to the 30 per cent average growth posted by his empire in each of the past 15 years.

"Your name has to be known in this business," he explains. "It took Coca-Cola decades and billions. We are trying to do it in years with millions." Two 50ft wide Bloomberg screens are suspended over the concourse of Manhattan's Penn Station, relaying 24 hours a day the words of Mike Bloomberg.

The other secret has been to stay ahead of the curve, ahead of the next innovation. That is why much of his energy is devoted at present to building on the firm's small foothold in cable TV and piping visual images down to the Bloomberg "boxes" which, for \$1,140 a month, sit on dealing desks

providing real-time data, analysis and news.

"You can't survive by keeping still. You can't just milk it," he says. And the future is TV. "If you get some high-school kid with a camera outside Congress, the only delay will be the congressman powdering his nose."

Bloomberg's relentless 12-hour-a-day energy infects the whole organisation. "It is a high-energy place," says one employee. Staff milling around the free snack-bars watch one of their trilingual newscasters deliver a bulletin from an empty studio. Using a hidden keyboard, she controls her own Autocue and graphics. One remote-control camera and some robots do the rest. No wonder the Independent on Sunday reporters were so awed recently by rumours that Bloomberg was in the market to produce their business pages.

In the middle of the three-storey nerve-centre of the Bloomberg empire is a new work of art. Titled Natural Progression, it has glass terraces sprouting across the newsroom — a constant reminder of Bloomberg's growing influence.

"My ex-wife used to say that I went on vacation five days a week and then did two days' work with the family," he recounts. "There's something to that. I still can't wait for tomorrow morning."

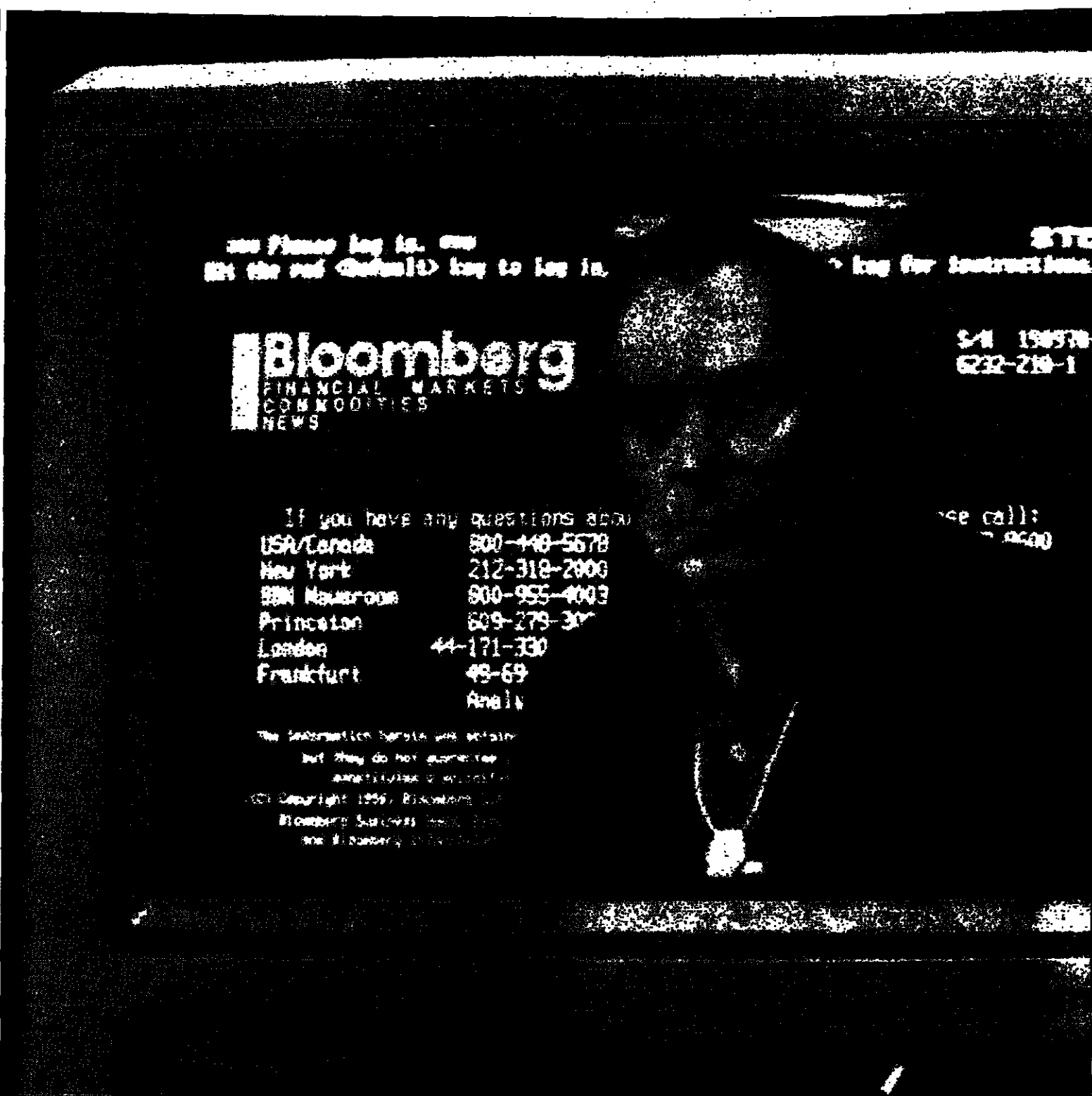
And Mike Bloomberg is not content to collapse at the end of a working day. He is on the town every night, on this particular night to celebrate the birthday of his new girlfriend — about whom he is uncharacteristically coy, offering that she has left it too late in life to become a good skier.

"I like the theatre, dining and chasing women," he says. "Let me put it this way. I am a single, straight, billionaire in Manhattan. What do you think? It's like a wet dream." Then, in a quieter moment, he says the end of his 20-year marriage a few years ago is the only real regret in his life.

**S**O WHAT drives him to ever-greater endeavour? Why doesn't he just have a rest (most people find they are exhausted after an hour with him)? "There are people who do things simply because they want to do them," he says. "I could have retired after I left Salomon's — God knows I had more money than I could ever spend — but I didn't."

Part of his motivation stems, however, from a philanthropic instinct. On Christmas Eve, Bloomberg was named America's thirteenth most generous man — 10 places ahead of Ross Perot — after donating \$30 million to good causes during 1996.

"My great love is philanthropy," he says. "Most of my money will be given away or into trust funds for my daughter." Last year, he gave \$55 million to Johns Hopkins. This year he endowed his other alma mater, Harvard, with \$3 million to establish a chair in philanthropy. The chair moves between departments every two years, which fits his constantly moving philosophy. Bloomberg got an



Bloomberg and his box: 'Money still does not open all doors. There are some clubs I will never be able to join'

MBA from the prestigious business school.

"I'm always on the development committee of things, never the artistic one," he jokes. "People know what I'm there for. And that's just fine."

According to his worldview, government service or religious calling are philanthropic simply because the pay is dirt-poor. His role is to earn as much as he can in the private sector, because that is where his talent lies, and funnel it to the deserving.

One of the scientists on a project at Hopkins, funded by Bloomberg, is working on a cancer cure and is a contender for a Nobel prize. "This guy is on \$60,000 a year, has a ponytail and an earring. And he's going to get a Nobel prize," Bloomberg says, in amazement. "But it is my

money, so even though my name won't be on it, it'll be my prize, too."

His generosity does not stem from religious conviction — "after my bar mitzvah I never went to temple again" — but does help him to justify the way he has devoted his

largesse, too. When Alan Greenspan's economic consultancy was going under in the 1980s and he was worrying about the money outstanding on the lease of his Bloomberg machine, generous Mike tore up the agreement.

"Maybe one day you'll be in

the feeling he retains of being an outsider, a kid from the wrong side of the tracks, someone who has to prove himself continually. The son of a bookmaker, Bloomberg went to a state school and did not easily scale the walls of the Ivy League colleges.

He says he cannot imagine retiring. But he does fantasise about starting over. "I do think that perhaps I should give it all up and set myself up with a shoe-shine stall to see if I could do it again, or whether it was just luck." The fact that he cares whether it was luck or skill — and like

most success stories it contains a bit of both — betrays some insecurity in the middle-aged billionaire: Am I really as good as I think I am?

And Bloomberg knows that for a certain, WASPish segment of US society, he will remain the little Jewish kid from Boston, despite — or perhaps because of — his wealth. "Money still does not open all doors. No society is totally meritocratic. There are some clubs I will never be able to join," he says with just a hint of bitterness.

But he finds consolation in the fluid money-oriented society that is New York. Unlike most wealthy people, he does not feel boredom with being famous and sought-after.

"If I go to a cocktail party, people want to talk to me. Do I mind? Are you kidding? I absolutely love it."

## 'My ex-wife used to say I went on vacation five days a week then did two days' work with the family'

life to wealth-generation. He says his money stops 500,000 Third World children going blind every year, two million from getting potentially fatal diarrhoea. "Knowing that, I go to sleep every night with a smile on my face," he says.

Some of the powerful have benefited from Bloomberg's position to put a dozen on your desks," he told Greenspan, who is now the head of the US Federal Reserve.

"Jeez, if only I'd known what I should have said is: 'I'm sure you'll be able to pay us back one day.'"

But the real engine of his ambition is almost certainly

## Digital info empire built on boxes

**T**HE Bloomberg empire in built on 7518 "Bloomberg boxes" which pipe information through two monitors to 67,000 users worldwide, writes Richard Thomas.

Subscribers receive, down a dedicated digital phone line, asset prices, analyses and quotes.

In 1981, Michael Bloomberg spotted a niche for instantaneous data which allowed dealers to compare products. His first crude machines, based on a computer program he developed at Salomon, simply offered stock and bond comparisons in terms of price and earnings.

In the fast-paced dealing rooms, Bloomberg machines soon took off, alongside traditional Reuters wire services.

As markets grew in complexity, so did the boxes, which now have more than 4,000 functions. For most of the 1990s, box sales grew by 40 per cent a year — giving the company room, and cash, to move into other areas.

By the end of the 1980s, Bloomberg realised that the next stage was to explain the data, to give money managers the stories behind the figures. Bloomberg poached Wall Street Journal reporter Matthew Winkler, who once called his new employer "profane", and set up Bloomberg Business News which provides wire stories to dealers and other media outlets, including newspapers, radio stations and TV.

Now there are 400 reporters on Bloomberg's books and the company's boxes have a small TV screen pouring out news.

Bloomberg has established a business radio station in New York, which also provides news bulletins to 40 regional stations across the US. He publishes specialist newsletters and has just announced that he intends to produce business textbooks.

His television station is available to European satellite and cable users. The US satellite channel is augmented by slots on public television.

Bloomberg is determined to keep the company on the move, even at the risk of overextending. "There are always threats to your position," he says. "The man who says he is secure is soon a poor man."

## Enlargement will pose big questions for Europe

### Euro Eye

### Mark Milner

**F**OR the European Union, the coming year will be dominated by two issues: the inter-governmental conference and members' progress towards the criteria for monetary union.

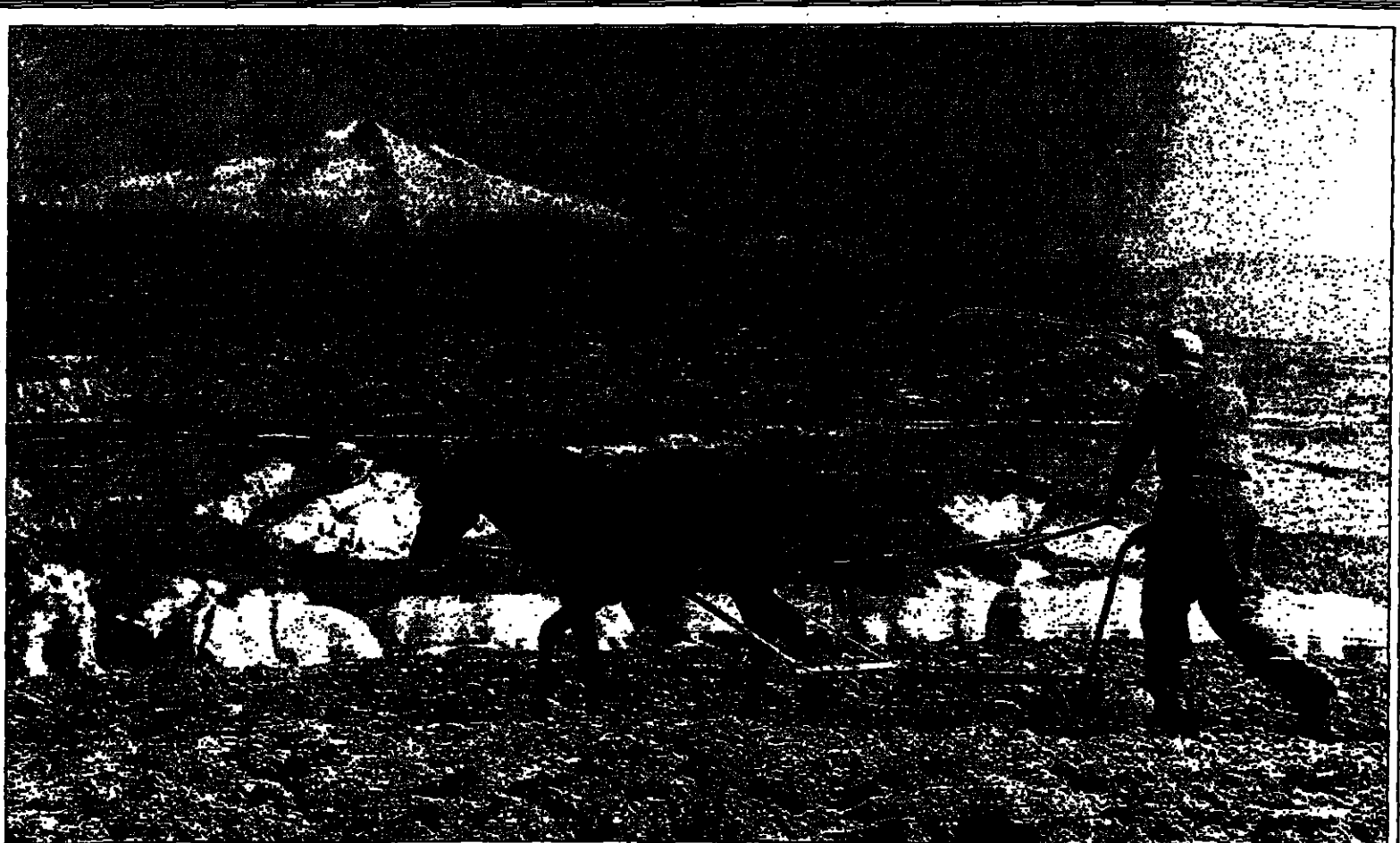
Both are important issues — the IGC is meant to provide a much-needed overhaul of the framework and structures within which EU business is conducted; 1997 is the year on which countries wishing to sign up for the single currency in 1999 will be judged.

Neither the IGC nor Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) offers easy options.

Britain, as usual, is already setting its face against many of the changes likely to come before the IGC. Politicians and diplomats in Brussels and the other European capitals are, rather obviously, pinning their hopes on change of government. However, they may find that if, as the opinion polls suggest, Labour is the next party in office, there will be no sudden changes on Europe.

Nor is Britain alone in pondering the problems ahead. The Dutch are less than enthusiastic about common drugs laws across Europe; France and Denmark are scarcely keener on a common immigration policy. Some of the smaller countries, too, are bound to be worried by French and German plans to change the EU's weighted voting system — which would, in effect, give bigger countries more say.

The IGC process is meant to be concluded by the summer. Many think it will take longer than that. Even then, it may make less progress than hoped. Cynics are already muttering that it will be, in the words of one Brussels in-



Waiting for IGC... The livelihood of this peasant farmer in central Anatolia, Turkey, is likely to depend on tricky decisions by Europe's career politicians

sider, more *embellish-cadeux* (gift wrapping) than substance.

That remains to be seen. What is certain is that both the IGC negotiations and the efforts to maintain the budgetary disciplines needed to transform the often optimistic budgetary projections into solid performance will take considerable effort — so considerable that there is a dan-

ger two other crucial, related issues will be overlooked or neglected.

Those issues are unemployment and enlargement. It could be argued that, without reform of the EU's institutions, the concept of enlargement — opening the membership door to countries in central and eastern Europe, for example — is nothing more than a chimera. The

point is a fair one, but reform cannot be determined in an EU vacuum.

Whatever hurdles many of those wishing to join the EU have to clear (and they will be considerable in number and difficulty) the EU, too, will have to help.

Look no further than the Common Agricultural Policy, one of the key areas of IGC scrutiny. Without radical

reform (such as slashing the subsidies doled out under its provisions) there is little prospect of central and eastern Europe being allowed into the Union. Yet, across Europe, farming lobbies wield formidable political clout. There will be no shortage of politicians prepared to will the end (enlargement), but there may be rather fewer prepared to will the means to

achieve that end. Yet the CAP issue cannot be decided on the basis of an internally acceptable fudge without damaging the prospects for enlargement.

Many supporters of monetary union will argue that the single currency will provide a stimulus for jobs. Even those who are more sceptical believe the policies which must be followed to ensure qualifi-

cation for the single currency are sound in themselves and will provide a stable economic framework which will, in turn, create sustainable growth and, thus, more employment.

Again, fair enough. But more needs to be done. The problem of unemployment is not simply cyclical. Europe faces structural problems, too.

Labour market flexibility may help (at least at the lower end of the pay/skills scale), but increased and better education and training would be a more productive option. Former steel workers do not become software specialists just because they are prepared to work for next to nothing.

This is not simply a question of a new year wish-list. There are dangers in the EU becoming too focused on its own, immediately pressing concerns. Unless it pays attention, and is seen to pay attention, to the questions of enlargement and unemployment, the EU risks being perceived as exclusive, in the worst sense of the word, both at home and abroad.

من الاموال



THE REAL PICTURE/Philips' futuristic new semi-conductor plant relies on scientific excellence and hi-tech cleanliness. Photograph: Don McPhee/Words: Martyn Halsall



Few places have a stricter dress code than Philips Semiconductors in Stockport, Cheshire, where a £100 million investment programme is set to double output for the 21st century. Masked and gowned, their hands in vinyl gloves

and feet in moon-boots, 70 engineers and production staff are each shift stocking and testing a "clean room" with an atmosphere 100 times purer than a hospital operating theatre. Clinical cleanliness is vital, said operations manager Gary Munro. "Even a tiny piece of material, invisible to the eye, could destroy production of a batch of semiconductors worth up to £10,000."

The "clean room" lies at the heart of the new £45 million building producing the silicon chips which act as the electronic switches of the modern world. They are found in everything from cars' central locking devices to washing machines, microwaves and radio cassettes. Every piece of equipment,

from special paper to ion implanters costing £1.5 million each, has to be "wiped down" to make it sterile. Air is changed every 10 seconds in the windowless, white-tiled production areas, which have air-locks and are kept at a constant

21 degrees centigrade by a cooling system equivalent to 9,200 fridges. Two hundred jobs will be created in the next four years at a plant aiming to triple turnover and become one of the top five semiconductor plants in the world.

Notebook

Smart money's thinking global



Alex Brummer

AS WE move towards the final years of this century, businesses and nations need to think global. It may seem that there is nothing new in this for Britain — after all, this country has been a global trading power since the 17th century. However, as the nation and British business have shed their colonial past, they have become increasingly narrowly focused, preferring to concentrate on the domestic market and comfortable relationships with North America and Europe, rather than take the adventurous, internationalist approach which made these islands an economic powerhouse and a world power.

The goodwill from Africa to Latin America and the Pacific Rim, built up over centuries, is being allowed to wither. Our biggest corporations such as BT think they are going global when they make deals with a US telecoms group like MCI. But the really inventive way forward would have been a link with another UK-based firm, Cable & Wireless, which would have given BT access to the world's fastest-growing regions. Geo-economics has displaced the geopolitics of the Cold War era as the main driving force of international relations and commerce. The time when the three largest economic groupings — North America, Japan and Europe — could look to each other for their political, financial and trading relationships is passing. The creation of relationships with the emerging market economies will be as important to Western economies as it is to the developing countries themselves.

Growth rates in the emerging market countries are expected to reach 6.2 per cent in 1997, against the mediocre 2.5 per cent growth for the West (according to the IMF). This disparity in growth rates and opportunity is sucking in capital, investment and expertise from the industrialised nations to the emerging markets. Amid this sea-change, commerce has to think in global terms.

IN THE world of banking, traditionally domestic institutions such as Deutsche Bank of Germany and ABN-Amro of the Netherlands are currently engaged in a worldwide expansion which has left older-style colonial institutions such as Lloyds Bank in Latin America in the dust as its European mainland counterparts have backed the new geo-economic order. Lloyds TSB has become so preoccupied with becoming a dominant consumer bank delivering mortgages and insurance products that it has neglected its global roots and strong traditions in Latin America. Barclays has become so obsessed with not making the mistake of British Colonial Bank property and abroad that it is falling to use its enormous pull from South Africa to the Caribbean and Middle East to re-establish itself as a power for the next century. Only HSBC is behaving like a genuinely global bank, seeking to add holdings in countries such as Mexico to an already impressive network.

Specialist car companies like BMW have rediscovered the same trend. They have learnt to grow closer to their markets. This does not mean sitting in Munich thinking up ever-better models. It means taking the Munich model into new markets and being prepared to think global on a long-term, basis. The engines for the next generations of BMW/Rover will be built in Latin America and in the Midlands in Britain, not simply because costs are lower, but because the growing South American and European markets can best be served in this way over the next quarter-century.

The contrast between a commercial company, such as Rover, and BMW is remarkable. Rover focused all its attention on the limited UK market, losing its foothold in the former colonies and the Far East. Trading companies like Incheape, with a strong franchise in the Pacific Basin, found they had to substitute overseas marques for the British ones to survive. The end-of-year merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas also recognises the importance of global markets. Aircraft may continue to be designed and quality-tested in Seattle and St Louis, but with the emergence of a more global economy, it is likely that much more of the plane will be constructed closer to the market. Eventually, even the most sensitive parts of the kit may be built in Japan, China or Korea — if that is where the big international orders are coming from.

THE customers for new planes, the airlines, like to talk of globalisation and have forged hundreds of bilateral alliances across the globe. But the reality is different. In many emerging market countries that think nothing of allowing Citibank and JF Morgan to control the larger part of their banking assets, and where the population is only too happy to be seen driving around in Nissans and VWs — symbols of financial and manufacturing globalisation — the governments are satisfied to operate flag-carriers with limited route structures and remit. Some carriers, such as British Airways, have talked frequently about globalisation. But much of BA's expansion has been based on its strengths, many of them built up during the colonial era. It has sought to build domestic service inside Europe but with limited success. More recently its main focus has been on strengthening its links across the Atlantic through the American Airlines alliance, rather than developing, for instance, its own hubs in emerging markets. It has, however, recognised that some airline services such as ticketing are now a global business, with the removal of national reservations and ticketing operations to the Indian sub-continent. Indeed, BA's current chief executive, Robert Ayling, tends to view the company more as a franchise, such as Coca Cola, than as an institution which has roots from London to the rest of the world.

Financial and commercial organisations with world ambitions, from ING Barings to Unilever and the Kuwaiti Investment Office, feel that they need to have a base in the City of London to conduct their foreign exchange, Euro-bond financing, takeover and other business. This is held up as a glowing example of London's claim to be the world's most important business centre. What a pity, then, that only a very limited number of British corporations, financial and industrial, have rediscovered the global gospel.

Tories given double bonus

Home buyers and consumers begin to show feel-good spirit

Sarah Ryle

THE Government's election hopes were boosted yesterday by further evidence of a buoyant housing market and soaring consumer confidence. The latest review of the housing sector by the Nationwide building society yesterday showed that prices rose by 8 per cent in 1996 and are set to increase by a further 7 per cent next year. A separate study, published

today, predicts that the January sales are likely to be the best since the 1960s, registering the fastest annual growth since the boom of 1988. "Rising incomes, end-year bonuses and reduced rates of redundancy mean that people have both the means and the confidence to spend," said Mark Fraguel, author of the retail report for the Independent Centre for Economics and Business Research. The study notes that sales growth in 1997 followed six years of bad or average January sales, and says that another

good year will be needed if the spirit of the 1980s is to return in full force. But the Nationwide's survey, which showed house prices up 8.5 per cent in December, compared with a year ago, provided evidence that a key component of the feel-good factor was in place. The Nationwide said that, despite a small slip back of 0.3 per cent from November's level on a seasonally adjusted basis, the substantial upturn in confidence meant the housing recovery would strengthen. Philip Williamson, the society's marketing and commercial director, said: "Although it was from a low base, 1996 saw a substantial improvement in the housing

market, and we expect further growth, particularly in transaction volumes, into 1997 and beyond." Rising house prices would lift hundreds of thousands of people out of negative equity; the society's quarterly review predicted fewer than half of the 1.7 million homeowners whose properties were worth less than their mortgages remain, and Nationwide says the blight will all but disappear over the next two years. Negative equity is disproportionately high in the South-east, and market price growth in London has helped ease the hardship. Although price rises could be as high as 15 per cent in some parts of the country, in-

creases should be more evenly spread next year, as rising confidence encourages more owners to put up a "for sale" sign. This should also ease the bottleneck which the industry says has caused price inflation of up to 30 per cent in some housing hotspots as supply fell far short of demand towards the end of 1996. More properties are on the market, so the 8 per cent price growth this year would not be matched in 1997, the report said, although it described the 7 per cent prediction as evidence of a "soundly based" recovery with less danger of a 1980s-style runaway boom. This will be "underpinned by excellent affordability and

higher levels of confidence" which will offset a predicted reduction in special incentive cashbacks and discounts offered by mortgage lenders. The strong growth in 1996 against the poor 1995 performance was boosted by the reversal of "heavy income tax increases" and should be further fuelled as the round of direct tax cuts in the latest budget fed through in 1997. Further evidence of consumer optimism is provided today by a survey from Barclays mortgages which shows one in two homeowners now believes the value of their house is set to increase. There was also a rise in the number of people intending to move this year.

Northern readies the white flag

Patrick Donovan

NORTHERN Electric looks set to hoist the white flag in its long-running battle against a £782 million bid from CE Electric by advising all its shareholders to accept the US predator's 650p-a-share offer. Northern's statement is expected to persuade several leading investors to abandon plans to mark their opposition to the bid by retaining a minority holding in the takeover target. The Prudential, one of Northern's largest shareholders, mounted an eleventh-

hour attempt to drum up City support for Northern's independence, offering to buy back at the offer price shares pledged to the US bidder. After the offer closed on Saturday, several institutions that had been expected to be prepared to accept the CE offer, although they did not have enough shares to overturn the deal, they could have retained a dissident minority holding. A spokesman for Northern yesterday confirmed that a statement was pending. Although the company is expected to advise its shareholders to accept the offer, Northern declined to speculate on what would be said.

CE Electric managed to take over Northern by the skin of its teeth. When the first deadline closed on Friday, it appeared to have lost the battle because it had just under 50 per cent of the vote. However, the bid deadline was extended to give the Takeover Panel time to investigate the circumstances under which Northern's broker was paid a £250,000 performance fee. This violation of the bid closure deadline to last Saturday. In the meantime, late-lodged votes pushed up the number of shares pledged to the CE Electric camp to just over 50 per cent. The Takeover Panel refused

to reinstate the earlier deadline, which would have ensured that Northern retained its independence. In order to demonstrate their opposition, dissident shareholders had been expected to refuse to sell to CE Electric. The bidder needs to win at least 90 per cent of the shares to carry out a compulsory purchase of the remaining stock. In the meantime, City pressure is mounting on the Takeover Panel to tighten its rules. Firmer guidelines were needed to prevent a rerun of the confusion surrounding the Northern situation, an institutional investor said.

'Titanic' pensions policy presages national disaster

Richard Miles

ABOUT yesterday warned of an impending "pensions disaster". It published figures showing that millions face poverty in retirement because of a huge shortfall in funding. Urging the Government to come clean on the scale of the crisis, the shadow pensions minister, John Denham, accused the Conservatives of "betraying tomorrow's pensioners" and likened their pensions policy to the Titanic. "Millions of people are not covered by employers' pension schemes; others are only making tiny contributions to personal pensions, or are making no second pension provision at all," he said.



Labour's analysis, based on information collated from a number of surveys, reveals under-funding on a grand scale in both company schemes and personal pensions, with employees of smaller firms and women worst affected. Of the million firms with fewer than 100 staff — the bulk of private employers — fewer than four out of 10 employees are covered by a pension scheme. Seventy per cent of companies with five or fewer employees offer no pension arrangement. Even employees lucky enough to belong to a company scheme may eke out their final years on the breadline. Most members of a small company scheme receive about half the employer's contribution they could expect from a big company. Holders of personal pensions — introduced in April 1988 for workers not covered by a company scheme — are no better off. Department of Social Security figures show that more than 80 per cent of the 5.5 million people with

Laporte to detach adhesives units

Tony May

LAPORTE, the speciality chemicals group, is to raise £110 million from the sale of most of its European adhesives and sealants operation to Elf Atochem. The company also expects to realise between £50 million and £110 million for its North American adhesives and sealants businesses. Jim Leng, the company's chief executive said: "These businesses are doing well so we're fairly confident about achieving a successful sale in the first half of 1997. "There is certainly no question of a fire sale of these operations." While the sale to Elf will eliminate group debt, a successful sale of the US operations would leave the group with net cash and in a good position from which to expand. The European sale will result in a goodwill write-off of some £50 million and an exceptional gain of about £28 million. Mr Leng said: "Our strat-

Spider-Man publisher files for bankruptcy

Mark Tran in New York

SPIDER-Man yesterday got caught in a financial web as Marvel Entertainment Group, the comics publisher, filed for bankruptcy protection. The bankruptcy filing was seen as a manoeuvre by millionaire Ronald Perleman, who owns 80 per cent of Marvel, to keep control of the troubled producer of comic books and trading cards. Marvel has been at the centre of a tug of war between Perleman and corporate raider Carl Icahn. Under a proposed financial restructuring plan, Mr Perleman's Andrews Group will invest \$365 million (£224 million) in new equity in Marvel, allowing the publisher to make toy designer Toy Biz a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marvel. Marvel will also receive £160 million from a group of lenders to finance its new strategic investment programme. Marvel was bought by Mr

Perleman just before the peak of the investment craze in comic books in 1993. He then paid too much for a couple of trading card companies to fold into the Marvel group. Bond prices in Marvel collapsed last month after Mr Perleman's organisation said that Marvel was in much worse shape than anyone had realised and was having trouble paying its bills. To complicate matters, Mr Icahn has been acquiring bonds in Marvel in a bid for control. Scott Sassa, chairman and chief executive of Marvel, said that bondholders had prevented plans for a recapitalisation without going to court. He said that bondholders were asked more than a month ago to support Marvel's plans by waiving certain restrictions in the bonds, but failed to reach agreement with them delayed the publisher from moving ahead with development plans in TV and film properties, theme restaurants and computer software.

Costain quits from coal and property

Tony May

COSTAIN, the international mining, engineering and construction company yesterday overcame opposition from rebel shareholders to win approval for the sale of its US coal and London property interests. The board told an extraordinary general meeting that the sale of the assets "represents the last major step" in its plan to focus on engineering and construction. Mr Alisdair Stark, chairman of The Costain Independent Shareholders' Association, which claims to speak for 400 of the group's 15,000 small shareholders, criticised the group's "appalling financial record". He said: "The wise investor is he who has but a single share."

Rescued from receivership this year by Intra, a Malaysian competitor, Costain said on December 10 that it wanted to sell its coal operations to Rencol Inc, a unit of the privately-held Renco Group, for about \$47 million, including \$13 million of debt. Costain, which won the contract to build the controversial Newbury bypass, also said it would sell for £23.4 million its one-third interest in the Spitalfields development site in London to Malaysia's Metacorp. Cash from the sale will be used to repay debt, fund £20 million in US obligations and meet future capital needs. Costain shares were suspended at 47p last month at the company's request. Trading in them will not resume until after the completion of the asset sales.

Table with columns for Country, Rate, and Bank Name. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA.



Bloomberg: know-all billionaire, page 10

The coming spend, spend, spend year, page 11

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Table with 2 columns: Region and Electricity charges. Includes sub-tables for 'Extra charges for prepayment meter users' and 'Discount for direct debit users'.



Dark days... How long will it be before laissez-faire Britain's ghettos are as energy-poor as Philadelphia's?

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER PILLITZ

CHRIS BARRIE looks at the social repercussions of a free energy market in America to project the outcome of the full privatisation of Britain's gas and electricity industries

Switched off in mean street

HERE are streets in American cities where electricity and gas supplies are a thing of the past. At night apartment windows are mostly in darkness...

households and their problems securing adequate energy for their homes. It threw new light on the impact of privatisation and showed how many households are worse off in a world governed by market forces and competition...

British homes. Last year, that number had jumped to more than 3.2 million, and this year it is expected to be close to four million. British Gas has also increased its prepayment meters, with more than 850,000 now in place...

meeting average expenditure. "If competition reduces average prices for households, [and] increases the prices paid by those in receipt of benefit, the families will be worse off."

The plight of the poor is a cause of serious concern among consumer groups, who fear the gap between the poor and affluent will widen in 1998 when the entire power sector is opened to competition

The Guardian Weekly subscription information, including rates for UK, Europe, and the rest of the world, and contact details.

timewoods and Professor Stephen Littlechild respectively - allow companies to levy higher charges for supplying the poor because past debts have to be recovered and the costs of installing and administering these prepayment meters is, firms argue, higher than running direct debit customers' accounts...

line. Consumer groups scoff at such a threat. Quite apart from the cost of removing some four million meters, the political fallout would be enormous, they say.

Quick Crossword No. 8319 with a crossword grid and a list of clues for Across and Down.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.



# The Guardian the week



They go for the money and the fun. They forget, report **Sarah Boseley** and **Kathy Evans**, that it may become an invitation to a beheading

## Expatriate games

**S**AUDI Arabia's dry heat hits a blinding 120 degrees during the day and plummets to 40 below at night. The desert kingdom is a place of wild extremes — where alcohol, drugs and the mixing of the sexes are utterly forbidden in public and yet where parties rage privately throughout the night.

For the 30,000 British workers living there, including hundreds of young single nurses, Saudi is alternately a place of grim oppression and high, illicit excitement. At times, it can all go very badly wrong. It has before, when Helen Smith was found dead in 1979 beside the body of a Dutchman after an all-night party. She was gruesomely impaled on iron railings under the balcony of a British surgeon's flat. Now it has gone wrong for Lucille

McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, the two British nurses charged with murdering their Australian colleague, Yvonne Gilford, who was found dead on Christmas Eve in her room at the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran. The pair had shared a room with Yvonne, a senior theatre nurse. She had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered.

Such disasters cause public and private worlds to collide in a clash of cultures. In 1979 Penny and Richard Arnot spent some months in jail for holding the illegal drinks party where Helen Smith was a guest; they narrowly escaped a flogging. McLauchlan and Parry face higher penalties: if convicted under Sharia law they could be beheaded. For the most part, the Saudi authorities avert their eyes from the expats' extracurricular activities. As long as

the Brits, Americans, Scandinavians and the rest toe the moral line on the streets, they can do what they like in the privacy of their own homes.

It suits both cultures to cordon off the potentially pernicious foreign influence in closed expats' compounds — fenced off with high walls and heavy security on the gates. On the Western side of the fence, the compound acts like a safety valve, where expatriates can let their hair down without falling foul of Saudi law and ending up in jail causing diplomatic embarrassment to both their governments and the Saudi authorities.

The compounds began in the forties, with the construction of the Aramco oil company headquarters in Dhahran. Here thousands of Americans were able to live virtually an Ameri- **page 14**

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**Ms. PENELOPE HENNING**

**CAROLINE HOLDEN**  
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**NATIONAL SAVINGS**  
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GE1GD6



the week that was

Them on them

The global view

Americans are flocking back to a century-old regimen that has failed them repeatedly in the past: the high-protein, high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet.

Bull Shark. Possessing two penises, measuring up to 30 centimeters each, it is not called the Bull Shark for nothing.

The coming year in Las Vegas will begin as every New Year has for nearly a decade — with the opening of yet another gigantic gambling den.

One of the exhibition highlights is the Members' Gallery — animal penis specimens ranging from the humble domestic cat to the well-endowed

Us on us

The British view

The IRA has a clear choice. It can plunge the abyss by a return to terror or it can see sense and call a ceasefire.

In 18 years would devote much energy to abolishing hunting in its early years. The battle over hunting is far from over.

If you live in North-east Wales you will be familiar with the surname of Zychlin. Zychlin is the last name in the phone book and because of this has generated a lot of interest in the country over the years.

The pessimism among hunt followers at their Boxing Day meets that this may be their last is not only premature; it may also be entirely misplaced.



PHOTOMONTAGE BY ROBERT TOOTH

WERE YOU PAYING ATTENTION IN '96

- 1. So sorry to hear about your baby. Whose potentially libellous condolences (and to whom)? (a) Princess Diana (b) Sarah Ferguson (c) Bob Geldof (d) Liam Gallagher

THEME OF THE YEAR DECAY

THESE DAYS, THE word 'decay' is used to describe the decline of a nation, a city, a culture, a religion, a way of life.

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Signs of life from the cult that kills

This week last year December 23, 1995

THE DISCOVERY of 16 burnt corpses, lying in a circle in a French Alpine clearing, raised fears that followers of the Order of the Solar Temple doomsday sect had staged a new suicide pact.



Cars of dead cult members and, right, Ute Verona, who with her partner Patrick Vuarnet was amongst the corpses.



The apocalypse they believe in is not the end of the world but a passage from this world to another.

The massacres in Canada and Switzerland in 1994 were probably the result of a final attempt to purify the sect.

Mr Chaumell, who has written one of many French books on the Order of the Solar Temple, claims to have discovered the names of nine other people whose lives may still be in danger.

At 1am on December 16, the 16 people had apparently willingly left their cars in a ski resort car park near the village of Saint-Pierre-de-Chéranes, south of Grenoble.

apparition by Jo Di Mambro, one of the late founders of the sect. Instead they were drugged and shot by two of their number, both serving French police officers.

people had died at Chelny in Switzerland and five had died at Morin Heights, north of Montreal. All had been sedated before being knifed or shot.

tones. Followers were often middle class, including several qualified homeopaths, and gave generously.

Solar Temple leaders leave behind a second command structure? There are rumours that the sect still has thousands of followers, principally in Quebec.

French specialist on the Knights Templar, Jean-Luc Chaumell, believes the sect still has some 2,000 followers in Australia and up to 1,000 in France.

Expatriate games

page 19 can life-style, unconstrained by strict Saudi laws.

The foreign workers were a law unto themselves, said Jeremy Coventry, who lived on an Aramco base for a year.

man," said Anne Froelich, whose husband got a job at a Saudi university.

JUST ONCE she ventured out without a man, taking her small daughter to buy bread, "I was moved to the front of the line and got rid of as soon as possible.

hands at \$120 a bottle, makes its way past the authorities into the compounds.

A nurse is paid about £14,000 on average in the UK. Nurses like McLaughlan and Parry could bank at least £16,000 tax-free in Saudi.

nurse working in the King Fahd complex in Dhahran said the pay was good and the staff accommodation "like a five-star hotel".

Some expats are walking away from crisis or disaster, such as the end of a relationship. Others want a radical change to their life.

temptation to break all the ordinary social rules, let alone the stringent Saudi variety.

AS yet we do not know McLaughlan and Parry's motivation for moving to Saudi, except that McLaughlan was out of a job.

opened on that occasion remains uncertain 17 years later. A jury in Britain came to an open verdict over Helen Smith's death.

What did emerge from the glimpse past the compound wall that the case of Helen Smith offered was a taste of the tangled lives of the expats.

- 1. Princess Diana to her children's nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, insisting that she had an abortion.

Freelich took a typing job at the American base in Dhahran to escape the hot and claustrophobic home, picked up and dropped home by a chauffeur every day.

The Dhahran airbase, near the King Fahd Hospital where the two British nurses now charged with murder worked, is famous among western expats.

There are those, including the victim's brother, who would say that if they had their friend and colleague, they deserve to be executed.

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- 10. Trevor Nunn, the new artistic director of the National Theatre.

Women are forbidden to drive and must not be seen in the company of a man who is not a close relative — husband, brother or father.

There are those, including the victim's brother, who would say that if they had their friend and colleague, they deserve to be executed.

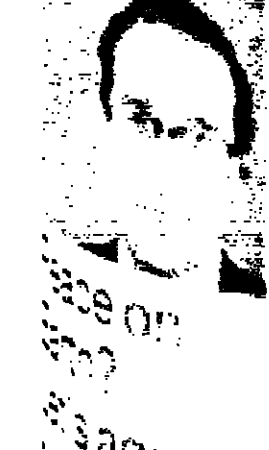
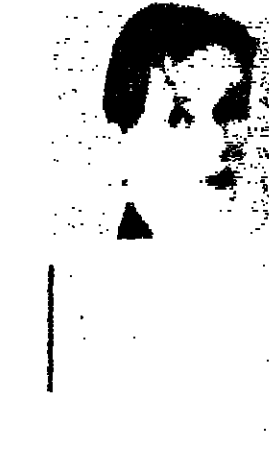
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Sadness in Saudi... Lucille McLaughlan accused of murder; Helen Smith (right) found dead in 1979

Sub who cre of the cro



عائلة من الامم



Some claim this man and his chubby schoolfriend have revolutionised capitalism. Oh really?

# Tubs who is cream of the crop

## THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW

IT IS OBVIOUS from the start that someone is missing. Ben is missing, Ben Cohen, the big bearded partner of Ben and Jerry's ice cream. Instead it is Jerry Greenfield the shyer partner, sitting across the table in his purple T-shirt embossed in black plastic with Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Jerry seems to be missing Ben, a lot. In fact, once or twice he even addresses Ben, whom he has known since school, as if he were in the room instead of back at the factory in Vermont.

For those who have not yet tasted it, Ben and Jerry's is to Häagen-Dazs what the Body Shop is to Estée Lauder. It's the ice cream with a social conscience, made from decent ingredients by two old schoolfriends who struggle to employ decent work practices and believe business has a social and environmental responsibility.

Sounds familiar? Yes, but even Anita Roddick hasn't gone quite as far as these guys, who organise "joy gangs" to cheer up the workers by patrolling the shopfront dressed as Elvis or pipe Barry Manilow through the office sound system. It's company policy that 7.5 per cent of the profit goes to charities, as does a certain percentage of each worker's time. Potential employees are screened for a social conscience at job interviews to check their suitability. (One man was rejected after objecting to B&J's policy of paying medical insurance for homosexual partners.)

As a business it has been a sensational success but like Roddick, Ben and Jerry have stuck their heads above the parapet and been shot at. Critics have seized upon their apparent self-righteousness, arguing that their widely publicised conscience is simply a marketing tool. Their efforts to secure the Amazon rain forest for the next century have been pored over and found wanting.

"Look," says Jerry. "When we started out neither one of us was looking to make a lot of money, or looking to become a businessman, or looking for a career." Which just goes to show how wrong a boy can be, because 18 years on, Ben and Jerry are selling \$158 million worth of ice cream a year, employing 700 staff and exporting thousands of artery-stopping tubs of Butter Pecan, Chunky Monkey,

and Cherry Garcia to deep freezes across the world.

Ben and Jerry have known each other for years. "Ben tells the story of when we were in gym class, standing at attention, and he heard this loud thud, and it was me falling over," says Jerry, fondly. "I had fainted from being on a diet. I was a tubby kid."

Ben was also on the chubby side and the two became friends, chatting together as they brought up the rear of cross-country runs. Still friendly in their early twenties they took an ice cream-making correspondence course, borrowed \$2,000 and in 1978 set up a small ice cream shop on their own.

To their horror, it worked rather well. "We looked at ourselves and realised that we were suddenly no longer ice cream men but we'd become businessmen. We were, you know, writing memos and correspondence," says Jerry, looking horrified by a memory. "It was a shocking revelation — we had a very negative reaction to it — because we felt like businessmen were, you know, bad people; that companies exploited their workers and exploited the community. So our first thought was to put the business up for sale."

For sale? "Mmm, and then Ben ran into this eccentric old restaurateur in Southern Vermont, and this old guy said: 'Ben, why are you going to do that?' And Ben said: 'Maurice, you know what businesses do? They take advantage of the community and their workers.' And Maurice said: 'Ben, if there's something you don't like about your business, why don't you just change it?' And Ben said it had never really occurred to him.

So B and J sat down and worked on "a philosophy that supported the local community". Ingredients would be purchased from local farms or firms that retained the unemployed or ex-convicts; staff would be given time off to work for charities and a percentage of the profits would be directed into local projects. Result: they would feel good and their customers would feel even better shelling out \$5 for a tub of Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

Jerry still seems rather surprised at their success. Is he? "It's shocking," he says slowly. "And I think people who knew Ben and me are shocked as well. I mean, we are not the kind of people you would expect that from."

I note from the company report that Ben is down as chairperson, and Jerry, as vice-chair. Have they managed to stay friends? "We are better friends now than we've ever been."

What does he like about the absent Ben, whose presence nevertheless fills the room. "Oh, he's classic entrepreneur. He's very innovative, very risk-taking, he doesn't have a fear of failure, he loves to try new things. I really like that, because that's very different from me. 'I'm, I'm like, very conflict-avoiding. I like a manageable agenda. Yeah, I have fear of failure, and I'm not a risk-taker.'"

Jerry seems so laid-back I expect him to slip under the table at any minute. He seems utterly affable and yet, and yet I can't help feeling mildly suspicious. Especially when he suddenly slips in that Ben, the chief flavour designer, has a poor sense of taste. What? We are talking about Fudge Behaving Badly, a new flavour from which Comic Relief will earn \$50 a pot, and I ask Jerry to describe the taste. "The taste?"

"Yes, how would you describe the taste to me?"

"Boy! I don't know how I would describe it! You know, the interesting thing about a lot of our flavours is there's a lot of texture and flavour contrast. And some of the reason for that is that Ben does a lot of deglazing of the flavours, and he really can't taste that well!"



Jerry on the B&J phenomenon... 'We looked at ourselves and realised that we were suddenly no longer ice cream men but we'd become businessmen' EAMONN McCABE

**Do they really have 'joy gangs' randomly imploring the staff to be happy? 'It's not as organised as you're implying'**

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"That seems rather odd, I murmur. "You know, he's... he can't really smell, and when you can't smell, you can't really taste. That's why so many of our ice creams are very strongly flavoured, so that Ben can taste them." I am just about to interrupt when Jerry continues: "It's also why they have a lot of big chunks of cookies and candies and nuts, or things like that. 'cos Ben really likes the contrast of different textures. He's

never had much of a sense of taste."

Then he says something else, equally curious. I ask him what flavour he likes and he replies: "Oh, you know, it's funny, the flavours I like most that the company has made — well, actually a lot of them have been discontinued."

At this point Eugene, the PR man enters brandishing a tub of Fudge Behaving Badly, which he has obligingly sliced in half with the office paper-cutter, so that I can see how the fudge and caramel swirl together. "Now that looks pretty swirly," says Eugene.

"I have this smug swort," remarks Jerry, eyeing the paper cutter. "Ben and I met a guy once who is a martial arts teacher and he decided to show us some sword training, and we would slice these points in half, it was really hilarious. Really Jerry? I have one of these Japanese warrior outfits at home!"

And I suddenly picture him in his outfit swinging through the factory, slicing wildly at tubs of grotesquely rich and chunky ice cream. Do they really have "joy gangs" randomly imploring the staff to be happy? "It's not as organised as you're implying," says Jerry solemnly. "It's an ad hoc volunteer committee, who try to figure out ways to bring more joy to the workplace."

This "fun" side of Ben and Jerry's is also extended to the company report, last year designed as a child's colouring book complete with a packet of crayons to colour in the blank drawings. Page eight is entitled "Ben and Jerry's Philanthropy", while on page 20, we find "Highlights of Ben and Jerry's Social Report", detailing their six Partner-Shops, owned by non-profit-making organisations and reassurance for shareholders that "among senior managers, gender balance is even".

It's not hard to be cynical about B&J's as Jerry is fully aware. "It's natural when a company is trying to do good things that people will be sceptical, they've been trained by business to think that business is just about self-interest."

And occasionally things do go wrong. Attempts to help the Amazonians by harvesting Brazil nuts came a cropper, as did a Partner-shop in Harlem, supposedly run by homeless men.

But Greenfield says the press have always idealised what they were trying to do, and have blown the mistakes out of all proportion. "Things do go wrong when you're innovative. But the idea that we're not cracked up to be what we say we are, is no more true than the idealisation was in the beginning!"

Behind all this is his and Ben's fear that business is taking over our culture. "It's the most powerful force in society," he says angrily. "It used to be religion, then it was government, and now it's

business. You can see it reflected in architecture, the oldest, most ornate buildings in major cities around the world are religious, the next biggest are governmental, and now the biggest, most ornate buildings are commercial. That's new, it's within our lifetime that business has become the most powerful force."

"Now religion and government have as their purpose the welfare of general society. I mean, that's why they existed. But business has become this most powerful force, and yet it's only out for itself, which is why I think we suddenly have a feeling of everyone-for-themselves again."

He is now talking so fervently, I wonder if the White House may be next on his personal agenda. And why not?

"Business strongly influences elections with campaign contributions," he rages. "It controls legislation and lobbyists, and it controls the media through ownership. You have car companies lobbying against fuel efficiency standards, against safety standards, you have businesses lobbying against environmental regulations, against health insurance, against the minimum wage. I mean, this is stuff that's good for the average person, and yet business is lobbying against it! And people are buying products from all these companies! It's crazy! I don't get it! Do you get it?"

## ANTHONY JULIUS



**Peace on Earth? Let's agree to differ**

CHRISTMAS is a good time for thinking non-Christian thoughts. When Christians celebrate the story of Jesus's birth, they prompt non-Christians to celebrate their own stories. Christ-ians throw in to relief the practices and beliefs of other religions. As a Jew, my own favourite story is from the Talmud, a huge, multi-volume work which sets out the laws regulating Jewish life and also contains rabbinic commentaries on those laws.

This is the story. One day the great Rabbi Eliezer was contending with a number of fellow rabbis about a particular passage in the Bible. He was maintaining a stance which the others rejected. They were right to do so, because his interpretation was demonstrably wrong. But he wouldn't give way. Seeking to shore up his position with proofs of his authority, he commanded a nearby tree to uproot itself, which it did. He then directed a stream to flow backwards; it too complied with his

order. He turned triumphantly to the rabbis: as you see, I am right! But the majority of rabbis were unimpressed. Miracles don't support an argument, only arguments support an argument. Stung by this, and rather missing the point, Rabbi Eliezer then commanded the walls of the schoolhouse in which they were debating to collapse. In deference to his authority, we're told, they began to fall, in deference to the authority of the other rabbis, however, they did not altogether disintegrate. (And the Talmud adds, rather quaintly, "thus do the walls tilt to this day"). The rabbis remained unmoved.

What did any of this have to do with a question of Biblical interpretation?

Driven to even more extravagant measures, Rabbi Eliezer then appealed direct to the Almighty, with success. A Heavenly Voice spoke, rebuking the majority rabbis: "Why do you dispute with Rabbi Eliezer, when in all matters of religious law his is the correct

interpretation?" God sided with Eliezer. The author of the Bible placed His own unique authority on the side of the dissenting rabbi. And this is where the story becomes interesting, because the rabbis were entirely unfazed by this intervention. They responded to Him: You have no right to interfere in our debate. The Bible is for us to interpret, not You. It is not in heaven, it is on earth. And You Yourself have taught that one must follow the majority. Far from being angry at this retort, God is delighted. He laughs, saying: "my sons have learnt well, they have defeated me!"

This is a story which has many applications. It supports, for example, that tendency in literary theory which denies the authority of the author in determining the meaning of the text. (Indeed, modern critics are now alert to the contribution that rabbinical techniques of interpretation can bring to the study of literature). The story is also relevant to the con-

tinuing debate among lawyers on the extent to which, in the interpretation of statutes, it's appropriate to go back to parliamentary debates to find out what was intended by the legislators. But that

**The rabbis responded to Him: You have no right to interfere in our debate. The Bible is for us to interpret, not You**

is the least of its appeal. For anyone unfamiliar with Jewish tradition, and in particular for anyone who subscribes to the political fiction of the "Judeo-Christian tradition", it's a shocking story. It makes defiance of God a virtue. The story endorses resistance to

divine authority, and celebrates rational inquiry, where truth is reached by debate unaided by miracles or flashy and oppressive demonstrations of power.

While it is true that the majority rabbis resist God by quoting back at Him his own words, thus affirming His authority at the very moment of disregarding His support for Eliezer, and paradoxically thereby justifying their defiance as submission, this refusal to acknowledge God's authority on something as central as the Bible is a scandal. But it's a scandal which goes straight to the heart of Jewish religious practice. For me, at any rate, it defines Judaism.

In doing so, it opens a space between Judaism and Christianity. What Christmas demonstrates, I suspect, is that Christians are encouraged to unite over symbols. They find their faith in the meanings they attach to symbols, principally, of course, the Cross, but other symbols too (I suggest this with great tentativeness). By

contrast, there is no such tendency in Judaism, where reverence of any images is deprecated, and where instead Jews are encouraged to unite over texts. The most characteristic moment of Jewish observance is thus not solitary prayer but collective study, one Jew debating a Talmudic text with another, the text itself in turn the record of earlier debates.

Of course, there are congruences. Friedrich Schleiermacher, who established modern Christian hermeneutics, explained that the interpreter's aim is "to understand the text at first as well as and then even better than its author" (my italics). Thus does a 19th century Protestant theologian meet 1st-2nd century rabbis. But still, it's the differences that are the most striking.

There is a tendency among liberals to seek to solve conflict by searching for the common ground. At this time of year it is perhaps safe to celebrate what divides us. *Jerry Hardy is on holiday*





Hail, sleet, mulled wine and razor blades with vitamin E

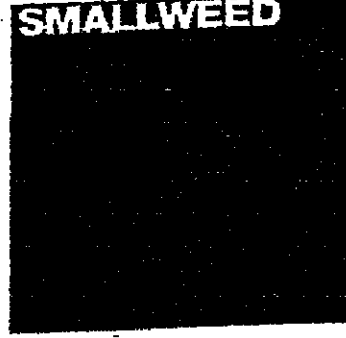
WE SPENT a family Christmas in Northumberland, just past the cold side of Hadrian's Wall...

isted of finding something to do with all the territory its army kept on winning. Hadrian himself was a consolidator rather than a conqueror...

I KNOW healthy eating is important, but things are getting ridiculous. In Hexham I bought a packet of disposable razor blades...

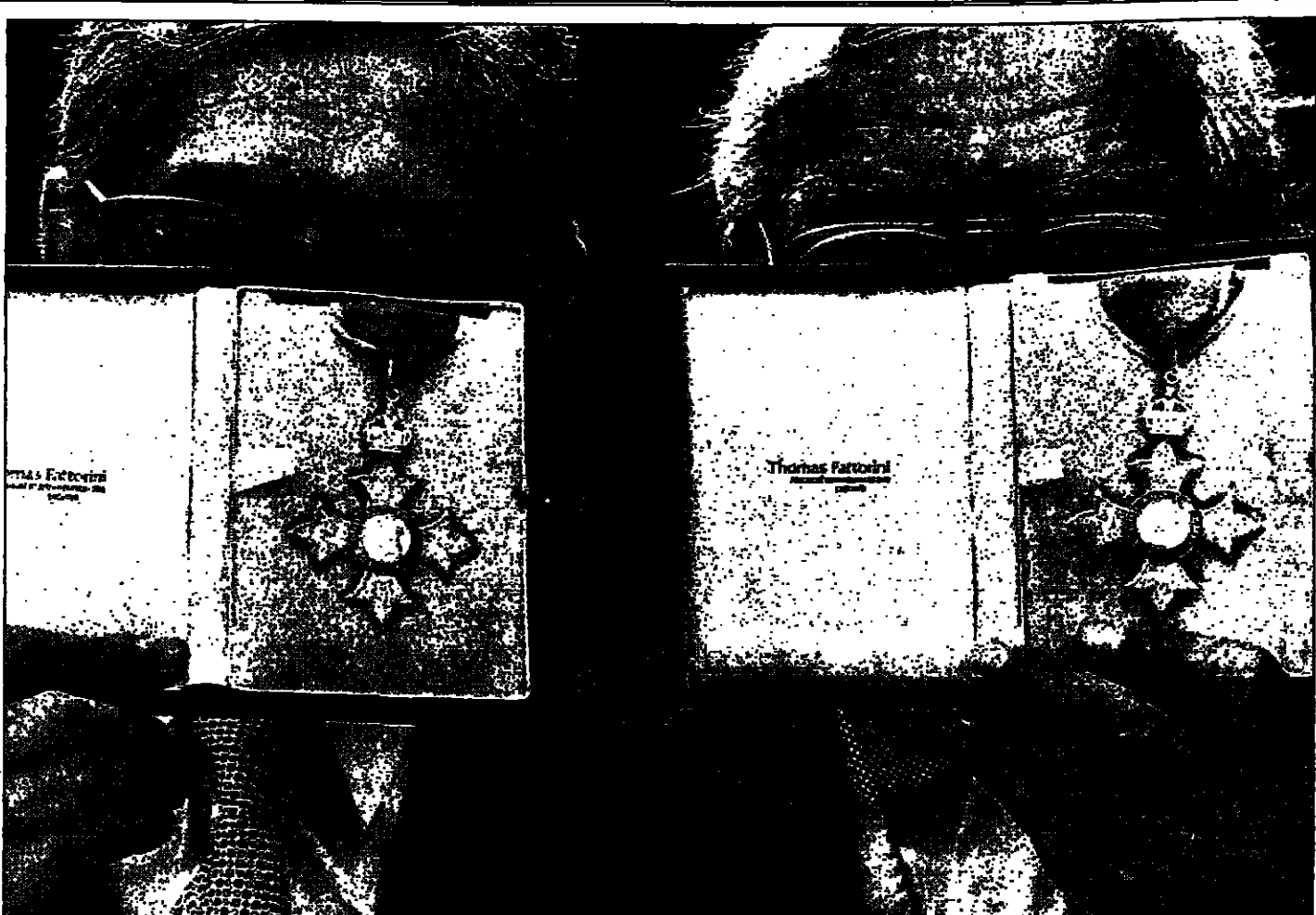
is how very few of the innumerable plays she watched have survived either. All those people in evening dress cramming the theatres to watch George and Margaret...

agers, the camp romantic leads, the lecherous landladies, the haughty grand-dames, the drunken old tragedians...



PREPOSTEROUS exercise has reached a suitably preposterous conclusion. Vibrant, tangy, charismatic John Major is enthroned as the BBC's personality (or as they say in Guy's and Dolls, personality) of the Year...

Who wins in gong show?



Top of the classless... Denis Norden and Frank Muir who did accept the honour of OBEs, awarded at the end of 1994

HEAD TO HEAD

Will you get an award in the New Year Honours List? No thanks, I was offered a CBE and turned it down says Gordon McGregor.

Dear Harold, LONG with the relatively democratic excitement of the festive season, your office must now be pervaded by tense expectation...

care what "class" they are thought to belong to. Burke's Peerage really doesn't help. Let me not at Christmas invoke the spectre of redundancy in your office...

declining the chance to join the crew and make this country a better place to live? Yours faithfully, Harold Brooks-Baker, Publishing Director, Burke's Peerage

whether dictator, president or monarch. Someone has to rule because that's the way humans work. You are an exemplary person for not needing a medal to encourage you to play a constructive part...

and it's daft to make a Gielgud wait till the age of 91 to be rewarded. That one unified award for distinguished effort for the community, recipients chosen by an all-party group of our elected representatives and awards made by the Speaker of the House of Commons...

Bargain New Year Breaks in London GREAT HOTELS FROM ONLY £28 PER PERSON PER NIGHT

Dear Professor, I AGREE with you that the idea of Major's "classless society" is bunk. You cannot legislate against human nature and class is as much a part of human nature as sex...

Dear Professor, WHY IS IT that no one has been able to obtain a classless society? That would be wonderful, perhaps, but nobody's come up with a recipe for it yet.

Dear Harold, IT'S HARD for a committed exponent of honours such as yourself to concede that tradition is good only when it enriches the present rather than inhibiting it...

THE ONSET of 1997 is saddened for Smallweed by the disappearance from the Cambridge United line-up of a player called Jamie Barnwell-Edinboro...

Doonesbury BY GARRY TRUDEAU. YOU KNOW, MIKE, SINCE SHE'S DOING SO WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET J.J. HELP WITH CHILD SUPPORT...

Handwritten text in Arabic script



Charles Nevin's very personal guide to the worst of the past year

# 96 things to leave behind in '96



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID SMITH

So. Here we are, halfway through that important period of pause, reflection and dyspepsia between Christmas and the New Year; a time for taking stock, for looking backward, for looking forward, for resolving that 1997 will be different from 1996: better, kinder, more at ease with itself. Perhaps, in my small way, I can help. For here, with ado, is my list of 96 people, phrases and phenomena featuring in 1996 that 1997 really would be very much better off without.

Steady. Settle down. You will all have your own little favourites, but I'm doing this. I should mention, too, that some people, phrases and phenomena do not appear, on account of being too obvious or impervious to well-meaning criticism: Jeremy

Clarkson, The Government, Sooty, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen Mother, the Prince of Wales, Diana, Princess of Wales, Sarah, Duchess of York, Ruby Wax (but not Madame Vasso, of whom I'd like to see much more, as Dame Vasso), all the rest of them, Trevor McDonald, Papa Smurf, Neil Wotsonname, MP — blond, grey suits, likes a quid; people who wear baseball caps back to front, call you "Young Man" and talk in lifts. Hey, some of those were jokes! (The use of Hey there, by the way, was ironic. It's banned, as is Purleese). And I should also mention that, for me, the Spice Women can do no wrong. And Sir Cliff's Heathcliff is a cracker whatever smart and sneering metropolitans might say. But enough blathering; let's get on with it.

**1** The following couples: Patsy and Liam. Patsy and Kate. Liam and Noel. Mick and Jerry. Jerry and Marie. Mick and This Month's Somebody Else. Madonna and Evita. Paula and Bob. Paula and Michael. Bruce and Demi. Pammy and Tommy Lee. Kevin and Ian. Kevin and the BBC. Jeremy Irons and Jeremy Irons.

**2** Sea Bass.

**3** The V Chip, particularly in deadly combination with V Bottomley.

**4** Crime and accident reconstruction programmes. Apparently the BBC is planning a compilation of the ones that, sadly didn't pull through on Animal Hospital, to be called Stone Dead: Roif's Bloomers.

**5** That man Sir Ranulph Twisleton Wykeham Fiennes going off on any more of his expeditions. Please. And, ditto, pretty please, Richard Branson. And Ralph Fiennes, while we're at it.

**6** All these rich and famous people who keep complaining that, in Britain, we don't like success, we resent it, want people to fail, whereas in America, there they really, etc. Go live there!

**7** Crash. Bored, already.

**8** Martin Amis and his teeth. And his money.

**9** That tired old canard about Peter Mandelson. For those who haven't heard it, Peter, in his first election campaign, in Hartlepool, went into a chip shop, pointed to the mushy peas and asked for some of the nice avocado dip. (Some versions use guacamole, but I prefer avocado, don't you?)

**10** The X Files. Independence Day. So they're here. So what? We've had John Major since 1990.

**11** Richard Dawkins. Chuck it, Dicky, and leave us our dreams.

**12** British fashion designers ruling the world. Just get on with the frocks.

**13** And London, Centre of the Earth. Try South Norwood on a Monday.

**14** The response "He speaks highly of you, too".

**15** These impenetrable adverts with empty swimming pools, sub Mad Max landscapes, and strange people, some of them grunting. What was wrong with men in white coats, a blackboard and a packet of soap powder?

**16** The misuse of disinterested to mean uninterested.

**17** Nitpickers who write in to newspapers to angrily protest about their particular grammatical bugbear, like the unrelated "hopefully", which is a very useful construction, you know.

**18** Too much Scottishness. God it's grim, but you've got to laugh or you die. Which I'll do if I see that shot of Mel Gibson shouting in blue one more time.

**19** The convention whereby people about to be interviewed on television walk along the street or sit writing at a desk slightly smirking because they're pretending they don't know they're being filmed.

**20** Britpop. Why should derivative native turns be somehow better or more desirable than any other? Ridiculously chauvinist.

**21** All these foreign footballers. What's wrong with our boys? They've got everybody wearing vests now, too. Norman Hunter didn't wear a vest.

**22** Newspaper headlines which are a variation on "What's The Story, Morning Glory" and "Don't Look Back in Anger". And while we're at it, that busker at Bank underground station who does Oasis and Ralph McTell.

**23** Another location diary from another movie star.

**24** Sooty, Thomas the Tank Engine and Enid Blyton being sold abroad for vast amounts of money. Are glove puppets the new rock and roll?

**25** Fly-on-the-wall documentaries. How about a fly-on-the-wall documentary about a fly-on-the-wall documentary?

**26** Posh birds in the writing game discovering soccer.

**27** Another man writing about a book about how his hobby is better than sex.

**28** Three Lions.

**29** Women writers overusing "shag".

**30** The expression "losing the plot".

**31** Restaurants whose decor is all wood and white, a cross between a gymnasium and a convent.

**32** Men writing about their mothers.

**33** Or fathers.

**34** Or daughters.

**35** Prizes. Too many of them.

**36** BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Evander Holyfield fall asleep, and, frankly, Des, I don't blame him.

**37** The reverse construction which employs "That" at the beginning, as in "That Blank is now the finest blank in blank can no longer be denied".

**38** Martin Jarvis overegging and overhammering Michael Frayn on the radio.

**39** Politicians reading their memoirs on the

**40** That red lettuce they keep giving you when you're out.

**41** Alcopops.

**42** There's still three years to go. And already Pre Millennium Tension has been overworked to death.

**43** And I don't know about you, but I don't care if I never hear another word about that Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich.

**44** Or how it should really be 2001.

**45** Or how the Ferris Wheel on the Thames is derivative, and out of scale. That's the idea.

**46** People who knock Jeremy Irons when he works bloody hard, bloody hard, and actually has a very good sense of humour.

**47** And Trevor Nunn.

**48** The expression "An accident waiting to happen".

**49** The Aids ribbon as fashion accessory. And all the other ribbons.

**50** And charity records. Just send the money

**51** By the way, why do these pistol shooters shoot at targets shaped like people?

**52** Conversations about house prices at dinner parties.

**53** Conversations about schools at dinner parties.

**54** Conversations about Europe at dinner parties.

**55** Dinner parties.

**56** Cucumbers.

**57** The expression "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".

**58** Politicians on the Today programme who say "Jim".

**59** Listen, I like the It Girls. They're a vast improvement on the Weather Girls, and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson is what we in the media game call "a breath of fresh air".

**60** People who say they're bored with Europe. It's the most important question of the second half of the century, along with the education of this and future generations (and house prices are going up).

**61** The expression "to die for".

**62** That Downing Street cat. It's on the Christmas cards this year, too.

**63** Television chefs, particularly those two fat ladies.

**64** Mothers in those enormous jeep things in narrow streets on the school run.

**65** Those enormous jeep things.

**66** People who think they are better mimics than they are and expect you to laugh like a drain whenever they say "Why aye, man" or "G'day, mate".

**67** Everybody complaining about stress all the time. Don't people pull themselves together any more?

**68** Tony Blair's hair.

**69** Jokes which are a variation on New Labour. New something or other.

**70** The joke that New Labour will start doing Old Labour things once they are in power. In your dreams.

**71** The expression "In your dreams".

**72** People who rave about the invincible superiority of American television comedies. Doesn't anybody remember The Partridge Family?

**73** Book reviewers who write about "resonance" and find things "self-reflexive".

**74** Art reviewers who find things "limpid".

**75** Another interview telling us that Jodie Foster is very clever.

**76** Adaptations of Prince's new name, as in The X formerly known as X.

**77** Another child of the famous revealing that sometimes their famous parent could be quite nasty or rude.

**78** Another child of the famous complaining that being the child of the famous was a hindrance rather than a help.

**79** Newspaper columnists who call their spouses "The Management" or some such.

**80** Newspaper columnists who tell you about their children, or their life in New York.

**81** Peter Andre taking his clothes off, again.

**82** Take That? Never heard of them.

**83** People who complain about Youth ending sentences on an interrogative intonation. "Innit?" is an invaluable invention, our much-needed equivalent of "n'est-ce pas?"

**84** People in tweeds and corduroys who talk very loudly to their children in supermarkets and restaurants, having parked the big jeep thing outside.

**85** Playing through the pain barrier.

**86** Being surprised by the England cricket team.

**87** The expression "take" for "view".

**88** The expression "is that x, or what?" and "is that x, or is that x?"

**89** Call waiting.

**90** "Rare" interviews (usually with Madonna).

**91** People "coming to terms" with things.

**92** Middle England.

**93** More pathetic attempts to stick some minor misdemeanour on Bill Clinton.

**94** An easy ride for Slick Willy.

**95** Shameless rip-offs of long-running Private Eye jeux d'esprit.

**96** Er, that's it.



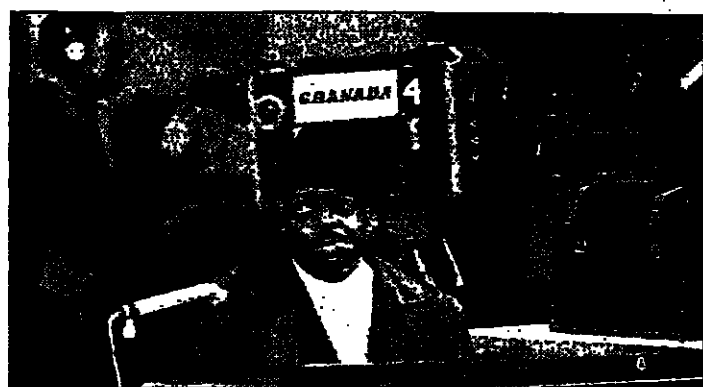
arts



Spontaneous combustion

Art forms of the century

Richard Williams reveals how jazz has lost its most important asset — the ability to improvise



SHOOTING STARS

RIISING: GEORGE ELIOT

Up... Andrew Davies's Middlemarch sweeps all before it in 1994, and there are signs that a new star has been born — Mary Ann Evans, whose panoramic novels of 19th century life are less morbid than Hardy's and could trounce Tolstoy for serialisability.

Away... Now Daniel Deronda — there's a challenge. And that enterprising Mr Davies has already snapped it up.

FALLING: JANE AUSTEN

Going... It has become a fact too universally acknowledged that any TV producer in need of ratings must find themselves a good Austen novel to adapt.

Going... Pride And Prejudice has been bagged, so have Sense And Sensibility and Persuasion and Emma. Some carping voices begin to complain that sprigged muslin is no longer the height of fashion.

Going... The cupboard is looking sadly depleted. Anyone for Sanditon?

JAZZ IS, of course, dead. Its demise was announced as long ago as the mid-1920s, when Louis Armstrong stepped out of the ranks of King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band to create the role of the star soloist, killing off the original form of New Orleans collective polyphony.

We all think we know what it sounds like, and what it represents in sociocultural terms. Whether it survives as a living, evolving art is another matter. Here's a strange thing. According to the results of the 1996 readers' poll conducted by the American Jazz magazine Down Beat, published this month, the world's best large jazz ensemble is the Count Basie Orchestra.

and bandleader of a later generation who succumbed to Lou Gehrig's Disease — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — at the age of 57. The current Basie and Mingus orchestras are what used to be called "ghost bands": touring recreations of the original ensembles, endorsed by the estates of the dead men.

land Jazz Band in 1917 to the "free jazz" experiments of the mid-Sixties — jazz roared ahead on a voyage of discovery. Each decade produced a new set of dominant individuals who reset the parameters, and something like the New Orleans Revival of the 1940s was dismissed as an irrelevance.

music, the minutest scrap of character blossomed into a personal style. In no other art form would a Hank Mobley or an Elmo Hope be able to express his individuality so clearly, and be so warmly revered long after his death.

Wynton Marsalis (top) has stifled jazz's development. Above (l to r): Count Basie, Charlie Parker and Charles Mingus are dead, but no one has replaced them

Advertisement for SAGA holidays. Features a map of Europe, a pen, and the headline 'From Torquay to Toronto...'. Text includes: 'Wherever your holiday takes you, Saga takes care of all the details, so you can have the time of your life.' and 'SAGA FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE'. Contact number: 0800 300 456 Ext 1484.

Wynton Marsalis seems to think so, and he is probably the best known and most influential individual in contemporary jazz. Fifteen years ago, Marsalis was a hotshot trumpeter with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, barely out of his teens.

If Wynton Marsalis is its creative figurehead, then jazz probably really is dead this time

younger, played Duke Ellington's Prelude To A Kiss, he was making a radical political gesture, a statement that even a revolutionary could pay homage to the past. Over the subsequent two decades, that sense of homage diverged. In the hands of the trumpeter Lester Bowie, the Dutch bandleader Willem Breuker and the British guitarist Billy Jenkins, it became an ultimately destructive form of parody.

Even in the best new jazz, the references seem to come first. Sometimes, as with Anthony Braxton's examination of the neglected compositions of Leonle Tristano, or the resumption after a 30-year break of the trio explorations of Jimmy Giuffrè, Paul Bley and Steve Swallow, the business at hand is the reinvestigation of territory which jazz bypassed in its headlong quest for new worlds to conquer.

This is the problem highlighted by the London Sinfonietta's recent historic recreation of the arrangements created for Miles Davis in the late Fifties and early Sixties, written and recorded and then put aside by men with their eyes fixed on the future. The pleasure at the Festival Hall came from hearing the music, some of which had never existed outside the recording studio, played live. But as the Sinfonietta and the trumpet soloist performed, and as superficially moving as the experience may have been to those with a

special affection for these pieces, it was not the real thing. But sometimes the problem is more subtly framed. John Scofield's widely praised new album, Quiet, features orchestral settings for his acoustic guitar solos and pays explicit tribute to the Evans/Davis collaborations, without moving the music any further ahead. Lovely, but what's the point? So many projects seem to begin and end with a concept. One of the best-selling CDs of the decade has been Officium, the collaboration between the Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble in which improvised solos are woven around the choral works of Gesualdo and others. Even the saxophonist Joe Lovano's new double-CD, recorded live at the Village Vanguard in New York and voted by Down Beat's readers as the record of the year, divides conceptually into one disc of pre-free music and one of post-free.

However good this music may be, it is the result of calculation rather than impulse, full of "re" words: reunion, recombination, reassessment, revision. The music is about the music, about the way it shapes itself through a series of choices: it is a sign of something, not the sign itself.

So while Quiet, New Moon Daughter, Officium and Lovano's live recordings are highly enjoyable experiences, they are also locked into the dilemma of jazz at the end of the century — a problem created when the Sixties avant-garde, and to the evolution of jazz as a form of entertainment, making everybody else worry about where they were going to get an audience from. "Free music", which is what we call the music that came out of that avant-garde, defiantly retains its fingerhold on existence, the preoccupation of a committed minority. "We play music that encourages intense listening and discourages any other kind," declares Evan Parker, the British saxophonist whose 30-year dedication to free improvisation has brought him international recognition. What he is saying is that in his area, jazz has finally come to a decision on whether it wants to be art or entertainment.

What jazz has finally and conclusively divided itself into "jazz" — an idiom comfortable with familiarity, content to repeat itself — and something less easy to define. In its latter state, you might say that jazz has returned to the condition in which it existed before it had a name. The miracle of century is not power failures or airplane crashes or trips to the moon, but primitive man and Negro folklore, wrote Henri Bernard, an early French jazz critic, in 1929. And no doubt Parker's Embraceable You and Coltrane's Alabama are authentic individual miracles of twentieth century art. But beyond the fact of their existence lies an even greater miracle. From the Icelandic avant-rock of Björk and the songs of the Senegalese singer Baba Maal to the Bristolian trip-hop of Massive Attack and the classical works of the young British composer Mark-Anthony Turnage, almost every form of contemporary music is touched in some way by jazz, not merely by its specific techniques but, much more profoundly, by its underlying spirit, by its love of strangeness and its yearning for perfection. Multifarious and amorphous, it is as resistant as ever to prescription and definition. Jazz may have done its job; its miracle goes on.

ARTS YE... We all went to the ball... Nights of long knives

مكتبة من الامم



THE ARTS YEAR: BLOOD AT THE BEEB, GUTS ON THE STAGE AND SEVERAL MURDERS AT THE OPERA

CHANNEL SURFING  
STUART  
JEFFRIES

We all went to the ball

TELEVISION will never again be like this. Or at least it shouldn't be. The streets were empty, as a nation (or at least, much of it) set about in the unfolding costume drama. It recalled the days of Hancock in the fifties, when for half an hour silence walked the pavements and then at 8.30pm door after door opened throwing out into the street their copiousness. But it wasn't the bony sea of Moll Flanders or Emma that swept us away; it was Euro 96, the television event of the year, the deepening wound that smiles as it scars. Lousy costumes, some dramatic like Garry McAllister on the Villa Park turf, Scottish hopes had already been brought to their knees, and it remained only for England to fulfil its manifest destiny — to fall winningly, and to focus its future in one man, who would be forgiven and clasped to its breast. Dramatically, the final act demanded to be played this way: if England had won it would have been so less satisfying, because England is a happier place when not exultant. Television will never be like this again, hopefully, because its former role as a cultural unifier is splintering with the channels and with the decline in viewer passivity. This year's arrival of The Simpsons (BBC1) to terrestrial networks was one of the more bizarre examples of television's death as a homogenising force. For years, Rupert Murdoch had ensured that the show would only be shown to Sky subscribers. America's most dysfunctional family arrived on terrestrial television with most people only dimly aware of what all this "not my shorts" lingo was about. Instead, television mostly developed niche products. Channel 4 led the way here, with The Girls Show, surely targeted at that neglected sub-group — thick narcissists who really, really want a girl's-own Loaded; with The Gaby Roslin Show — a chat show that didn't seem to realise it had been outsourced into obscurity by Mrs Merton and

Alan Partridge; with the Friends-Frasier weekly themed evening; with Father Ted, the only British sitcom worth the name (even though its writers and actors are all Irish).

ITV had yawning chasms instead of niches — Ant and Dec's Turner's All You Need is Love, Chris Tarrant's Man O'War, BBC3 unforgivably mangled its best programmes: Seinfeld and The Larry Sanders Show were tucked off the schedules in the spring and then incessantly broadcast thrice weekly in the autumn.

But the most contemptible niche product was Fergie, selling herself with none of the cunning of DI on Pandora. Suddenly, she was everywhere: denying everything with Sue MacGregor on Radio 4; doing the showbiz two-step with Roby Wax; blabbering with Jay Leno on NBC. Then she was gone, leaving nothing but relief and, one hopes, warehouses filled with unsold copies of her biography. The television event of the year should have been Dennis Potter's valedictory double act, Karaoke and Cold Lazarus. But, though they exploited the medium in ways alien to the current generation of TV writers, both were ultimately too cluttered to compel, too private in their obsessions to transcend their author's still overbearing personality. Peter Flannery's Our Friends In The North had none of Potter's formal ambitions, instead offering a redemptive dramatised history of Britain during the last 30 years. TV dramatists still regard realism as the proper mode of expression. No one who saw Jimmy McGovern's Hillsborough, his inflicting dramatisation of the football stadium disaster, should doubt the power of such realism; no one who saw Eastenders either, the most effective soap this year, with its gay kiss and its sensitively written and acted HIV storyline, should wonder why realism still dominates the most moving television drama. Better than that the spectacularity of Steven Bochco's Murder One.

In documentaries, realism often came second to style, typically in Stephen Lambert's Modern Times strand, sometimes sleazy and manipulative in its fly-on-the-wall techniques, but always visually sumptuous. It is also regularly achieved that touchstone of the modern documentary — quality of access, lamentably missing from Paul Beriff's Astronauts, or BBC's Defence Of The Realm. But it was old-fashioned documentaries that proved really memorable. Michael Frayn's Writings On The Water, a portrait of Budapest for Omibus; Andrew Graham-Dixon's A History Of British Painting.

The nadir of British television in 1996 ITV's Dublin coverage. The doctoring of the Thomas Hamilton's mother hours after the shootings still makes one wince. Intrusion without justification, hack journalism without the semblance of principle.

WAVE RIDING  
ANNE KARPf

Nights of long knives

THIS WAS the year when radio personalities made the news — FORGAN RESIGNS; GAMBO SACKED! — as much as reported it, and when radio policies became as prominent as programme. BBC Radio's annual horriblities began in February when its Controller Liz Forgan suddenly and mysteriously resigned. All became clear in June, when Britain Year Zero was announced; the BBC incorporated into a raft of fully-dominated departments — at BBC Radio's Christmas party TV bigwigs who've never set foot in a radio studio, let alone air-tisked a radio producer, could be heard declaring what a splendid little medium it is. For the BBC that of Charles and Di but it was between Broadcast and Production which, in plain-spoken, means chopping made-in-the-BBC programmes in favour of independently-made ones, thereby reducing rather than strengthening its claim on the licence-fee. Radio 1's Controller Matthew Bannister replaced Forgan, but insisted that he could also run Radio 1. The tabloid set upon Chris Evans for all sorts of heinous crimes rather than the real one — increasing predictability. Radio 2 got a new Controller, James Maclure, from television Light Entertainment. In pursuit of 40- and 50-year-olds to replenish his ageing audience, he signed up Steve Wright and Michael Parkinson for the weekend, while leaving the weekday schedules in the hands of old-timers like Jimmy Young. On 3 Nick Kenyon im-

licitly acknowledged that he done wrong in hiring Paul Gambaccini by sacking him (Gambo didn't go quietly) and replacing him with a triumvirate of safe hands. The network began 24-hour broadcasting, the Campaign to Preserve Radio 3 continued to decry its chaffification, but Kenyon's debut Proms were splendid, and the 50th anniversary of the Third Programme reminded us of its old treasures and produced some new ones. Radio 4 lost one Controller, Michael Green, who'd modernised the network with flair and the occasional (Anderson Country-type) whopper, and gained a new one from Radio Scotland, James Boyle, who promptly banned Exxon, Brother of Jesus, Woman's Hour celebrated its 50th birthday amid feeble tabloid jokes about "wimmin", and Anna Ford and Kenneth Clarke crossed words on the Today programme, which shed Peter Hobday amid a campaign to save him. Radio 4 comedy — from Mark Steel to the new panel show And I'm the Queen of S5+D — continued to sparkle, while a strong season of new single plays on 4 (the like of which TV hasn't mounted in a decade) included Diane Samuels's resonant Swine.

Radio 5 Live won itself the Sony Station of the Year Award, a new Controller in Roger Mosey, and a sizeable audience for Euro 96. The World Service lost its battle for autonomy. On the commercial side, Talk Radio, leaking money, shocked not because of its locks but by reinventing itself yet again: out went Simon Bates, Trevor MacDonald, Jonathan King, and Anna Raeburn, in came Paul Ross, brother of the more famous Jonathan, Classic FM, also haemorrhaging money, was bought by the large group GWR, and broadcast the sumptuous Russian Revelations, recordings from the Russian archives. Commercial radio became the province of big media companies, now allowed to own more than one FM licence in the same area providing they pass the Radio Authority's new "public interest" test. The future, they say, is digital, but the present is all cuts, with the attendant effect on quality. One of the most dispiriting things I heard this year came not on radio but from a senior BBC radio producer who said "We're going to have to try not to care so much about our programme. It'll be hard, but eventually we'll manage it".

در كتاب من الامل

Theatre is alive — official

Michael Billington salutes a furious 12 months

HAVE heard it suggested that the British theatre's reputation increasingly rests on starchy revivals of Ibsen and Chekhov. Yet the most startling fact of 1996 was the emergence of a new generation of dramatists, mostly in their twenties. Nothing like it has happened since the late 1960s, and it signals, at a time when smart-arse columnists write off the theatre, a continuing faith in the medium as a vehicle of moral protest.

I saw at least a dozen plays this year by highly promising dramatists: Martin McDonagh's The Beauty Queen Of Leamane, Simon Bent's Goldhawk Road, Samuel Adamson's Clocks And Whistles, David Eldridge's Serving II Up, Rebecca Hill's Shopping And Fucking, Nick Grosso's Sweetheart, Marina Carr's Fortis Coughlan, Shelagh Stephenson's The Memory Of Water, Diane Samuels's Knotgrass, Jimmy Murray's Brothers Of The Brush, David Greig's The Architect, Ayub Khan-Din's East Is East, Brian James Ryder's The Soldier's Song. In any other country they'd be hanging out the bunting rather than talking about a dearth of new writing.

Many of these plays emerged from the Royal Court and the Bush. Four of the writers are also Irish. But if any factor links an astonishingly diverse group of plays it would seem to be a cynicism about traditional family structures and a despair at the materialistic individualism of modern life. The rising generation, who in Britain have all grown up under Conservative rule, see through the hypocrisy of appeals to family values and reject the notion that self matters more than society.

David Hare, in a fascinating talk given in Texas, said that young writers today are "encouraged to be unambitious". Yet these theses this year have included the Holocaust, Irish Republicanism, East End fascism, unionism and miscigenation. No lack of ambition here. All I hope is that the dramatists escape from the confines of studio spaces and go on to write plays for bigger stages. We have an abundance of young talent. What we need are more plays capable of addressing large congregations.



In an astonishing year for established writers, Anthony Shear alone in Penn Gwern's Stanley

Andrew Clements pays homage to Kurtag and Terfel  
The tenor of the times

NOTHING demonstrates more how the best can be brought down to earth with a dash or just as swiftly redden themselves than the fortunes of two opera companies in 1996. The Royal Opera's staging of the French version of Verdi's Don Carlo, shared with the Paris Chatelet, would have been a highlight in any year, sparingly directed by Luc Bondy, with not a movement or a gesture out of place. It boasted a cast that would have been hard to better anywhere in the world, with Roberto Alagna, his most passionate in the title role, and Karita Mattila movingly eloquent as Elisabeth. Then two months later came Covent Garden's other new production in its ongoing Verdi cycle — a travesty of the early Giovanni D'Anna reworked by Philip Prowse that managed to fall at virtually every dramatic level. It was hard to credit the two shows could have emerged from the same organisation.

In the autumn Scottish Opera brought off the same trick in reverse, presenting the premiere of Ines De Castro, James MacMillan's first full-length stage work, at the Edinburgh Festival, which dramatically and musically was an object lesson in how not to compose an opera in the 1990s, and then opening its main season with a beautifully sung production of Mozart's Idomeneo, by David MacVicar, that showed how much dramatic intensity and clarity could be achieved on the slenderest of budgets, given a director with a genuine visual and dramatic imagination.

Opera North had its extremes too — an extravagantly amateurish, badly sung Madame Butterfly from the young Lithuanian director Dalia Ibelhauptaitė was swiftly followed by a revival of Deborah Warner's three-year-old Wozzeck, with a cast led by Andrew Shore and Josephine Barstow, that seemed even more amateurish and desperate than before. English National Opera accrued lots of brownie points by putting on the first ever British staging of Zimmanmann's hugely complex Die Soldaten, and otherwise had a rela-

tively quiet, consolidating year, while Glyndebourne came up trumps with both its new productions — Handel's Theodora staged by Peter Sellars as a diatribe against capital punishment and Berg's Lulu, rendered with cool clarity by Graham Vick, each enhanced by superlative singing.

The absurdly hyped Ines De Castro was just one of a clutch of new operas by British composers none of them totally successful, though Peter Maxwell Davies's The Doctor Of Myddyl, commissioned by Welsh National Opera to mark the company's 50th anniversary, had passages of real dramatic flair which, for all the contemporary clutter of the scenario, provided a reminder that Davies is an instinctive theatre composer.

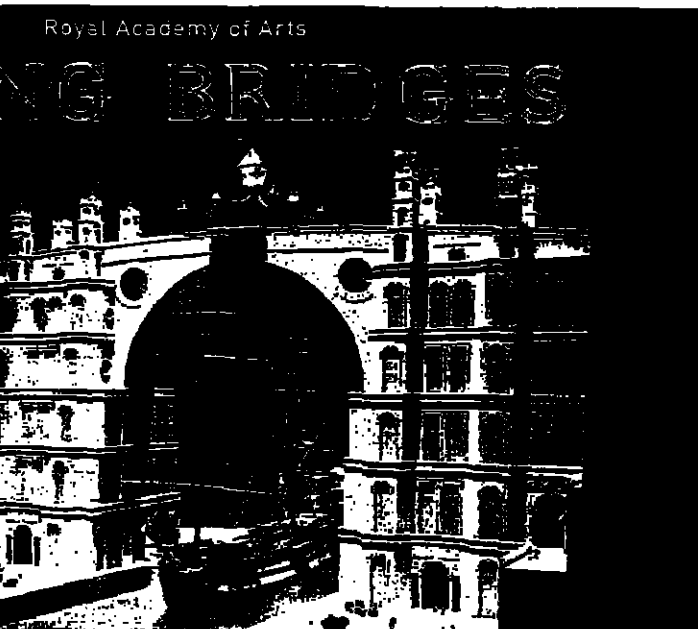
The best contemporary opera to be heard, though, was 100 years old. The semi-staging of The Mask Of Orpheus that opened the South Bank's Britwistle's festival was an exceptional event, renewing admiration for the work's ambition and complex dramaturgy and awe for the unique power of its music. A new full-scale production has to be a priority for one of the major companies very soon.

In the concert hall it was a good year for new music, with Mark Anthony Turnage taking another big step forward with his evening-long Blood On The Floor that combined jazz musicians with a contemporary music ensemble, Colin Matthews producing his most substantial score yet in the choral Renewal, commissioned by the BBC for the 50th anniversary of Radio 3, and John Woolrich producing a shapely Oboe Concerto for the Proms, themselves inaugurated in Nicholas Kenyon's first year in charge by a canny mix of innovation and tradition.

The living composer of the year, though, had to be the Hungarian György Kurtag, whose 70th birthday was celebrated with concerts in London and at the Edinburgh Festival that finally gave him the attention in this country that his intense, single-minded output deserves. On television too, Simon Rattle celebrated Kurtag as one of the featured composers in the last programme in Leaving Home, his

personal survey of 20th-century music for Channel 4 which failed to deliver quite what it promised, and lacked both the comprehensiveness and the vividness of presentation that such an ambitious project demanded.

Rattle's announcement that he is to leave his post with the City of Birmingham Symphony next summer was a shock but not a sur-



Over 115,000 have seen Living Bridges and designs for a new Thames Bridge. Exhibition extended until 5 January 1997

'Superb models of bridges, real and fantastic' *Time Out*  
A stunning exhibition *Sunday Times*  
'Living Bridges' also includes the Thames Water Habitabile Bridge Competition. Seven architects exhibit their designs for a new inhabited Thames crossing

Living Bridges is supported by the Corporation of London and the Générale des Eaux Group in association with The Independent. The exhibition was realised with the Centre Georges Pompidou, GINAM-CCH. Living Bridges includes the Thames Water Habitabile Bridge Competition.

tions of adultery flung at Shakespeare's daughter to examine the virtues and vices of English puritanism. Whelan also wrote the most technically ambitious play of the year — Divine Right at Birnham Rap — which tackled both the future of the monarchy and the state of our divided nation. It is cheering to find the 65-year-old Whelan, who takes as his credo Yeats's "hammer your thoughts into a unity", being welcomed into the Premier League.

In fact, I find it impossible to despair of a medium where one theatre alone, the Royal Court, has 60 writers under commission; or indeed where work by Jez Butterworth, Sarah Kane and Martin McDonagh is getting picked up all over Europe. But it has also been a great year for Ibsen: the old beleaguered patriarch has been shown to be our contemporary in productions of John Gabriel Borkman, A Doll's House, Little Eyolf and no less a great patriarch has been shown to be our contemporary in productions of the lesser-known plays: Love's Comedy, The Pillars Of Society, even Emperor and Gallien.

It has also been an astonishing year for actresses. Topping the list for me was Eileen Atkins as the quasi-incestuous, son-fixated Gundild in John Gabriel Borkman. But close behind came Janet McTeer as the death-hungry Nora in A Doll's House yearning to bring the house of Helmer crashing down, Alexandra Gilbreath's spiritually solitary Hedda, Anna Massey's wily and isolated Elizabeth I in Mary Stuart, Diana Rigg's self-clothing Martha in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Penelope Wilton's mercurial Madame Ranyevskaya in The Cherry Orchard and Lindsey Duncan's Rebecca in Ashes To Ashes, taking on the mantle of European suffering. In their mixture of intelligence and passion, British actresses are hard to beat.

It would be foolish to be too sanguine. The whole subsidised structure is threatened by yet another year of standstill grants. While some regional theatres are consistently adventurous others fall into identical programming. I find it particularly sad that Oxford Playhouse and the refurbished Cambridge Arts, which once originated their own work and which have an undergraduate audience on their doorstep, now seem to be interchangeable receiving theatres. New plays are also increasingly rare in the West End unless they have gilt-edged star names.

But erasing memories of the year's horrors — Les Enfants du Paradis, Tolstoy, even Miller's Midsummer Night's Dream — it has not been a bad 12 months. And the most important development has been the emergence of a new generation committed to theatre as a means of registering dismay at the malaise of modern Britain. In recent years I had begun to feel that British theatre was living off its glorious past. But 1996 showed that it still speaks to the young and that the corruption and exhaustion of the times has bred a countervailing moral revulsion. Our society may be in decline: our theatre however, for all its financial problems, seems to be quickening into new life.



Cross-country

Brown lives up to White Kenyan tag

Duncan Mackay on a British runner determined to make Africa take notice

JON BROWN took the quick path from being just another talented athlete in Europe to being the best cross-country runner outside Africa with his outstanding performance in the European Championships two weeks ago.

The 25-year-old skipped across the glistening mud of the Monteau sur Sambré in Charleroi to become the first British man to win a major cross-country gold medal since Ian Stewart lifted the world title in 1975.

It is doubtful if there had been a more dominating performance by a British athlete all year. Brown finished 35 seconds clear of Paulo Guerra of Portugal, winner of the title in 1994 and 1995. It would be easy to dismiss Brown's victory as coming against second-rate opposition but, beyond Guerra, more than half of the cream of European cross-country running also lined up in the Belgian mining town.

Perhaps even more significantly, though, the previous week Brown had beaten Kenya's Paul Tergat, the twice world cross-country champion, by 15 seconds in a race in Spain.

Today, in the televised Bupa County Durham cross-country, Brown will take on Tergat's compatriot, Daniel Komen and last year's twice world cross-country champion, by 15 seconds in a race in Spain.

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"He came back into the fold and the benefits he enjoyed were obvious when he ran so well in Atlanta. He certainly did his bit to put British distance running back on track."

Brown will be seeking to become the first British man to win the Durham race since Eamonn Martin in 1990. Paula Radcliffe, on the other hand, will be looking for her third women's victory in four years. But she faces an equally stiff task in meeting Geta Wam, the world champion from Ethiopia.

Brown has travelled the world in search of the training, races and lifestyle that would mould him into a champion. From Brüggen, where he was born, he has inherited an inner drive the Welsh call *hynl*. From the United States, where he was university educated, he has come to understand that only winners matter.

From Germany, where he has lived with his Duisburg-born wife, he has come to appreciate that the work ethic does pay. And from his Sheffield upbringing he has learnt to call a spade a bloody great shovel.

He has fallen out on several occasions with the British Athletic Federation and upset some of his peers earlier this year when he said many British distance runners lack ambition.

Brown has never suffered fools gladly. At Iowa State University he is remembered as the hardest trainer on campus, nicknamed the White Kenyan by his team-mates for the ferocity of his work-outs.

After his victory in Charleroi, the four European nations declined to lift the trophy above his head for the traditional winner's photograph. "Jon Brown is definitely not British cross-country's answer to Linford Christie," one Belgian newspaper snarled next day.

Darts

Taylor made for a place in history as Priestley gets ready to say his prayers

PHIL TAYLOR will be hunting a fifth title and a record prize of £45,000 when he begins his defence of the World Championship, which begins today at the famous Circus Tavern in Purfleet, Essex.

Since then Taylor has won the council's version of the world title for the past two years and, if he wins again next week, he will equal the feat of Eric Bristow, who won the Embassy championship five times between 1980 and 1985.

However, it is considered the greater. That is because some 7,000 players begin in the qualifying rounds of the Embassy, compared to less than 200 in the WDC version.

Nevertheless Taylor and Priestley, the top seed and Purfleet, are still recognised as the top two players in the sport.

second only because he has played fewer tournaments than Priestley, is not worried about comparing the two world championships.

had three WDC world championships and I was runner-up to Dennis in 1994 and won in 1995 and 1996, so my record speaks for itself.

Hockey

Top juniors take a break

THE new National Hockey Stadium at Milton Keynes hosts the Women's Junior Territorial tournament over the weekend but there will be no opportunity to see several outstanding under-21 players.

Weekend fixtures

Table listing various sports fixtures including Soccer, FA Cup, and other leagues.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Table listing Nationwide League fixtures for First Division, Second Division, and Third Division.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Table listing Bell's Scottish League fixtures for Premier Division and Second Division.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Table listing Scottish League fixtures for First Division, Second Division, and Third Division.

Results

Table listing sports results for Basketball, Chess, Cricket, and Ice Hockey.

Rugby Union

Pienaar set to shine for Saracens

Robert Armstrong

FRANÇOIS PIENAAR'S first appearance for Saracens is expected to attract a crowd of more than 8,000 to today's Courage League match against Orrell at Enfield.

South Africa's World Cup captain, who has a contract worth around £30,000 over the next 18 months, has good part in three training sessions with his new team-mates since flying in from Johannesburg last weekend.

Pienaar will take the field alongside Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sala with the good wishes of Nelson Mandela to spur him on to fresh achievements. The Transvaal flanker, who did not decide to sign for Saracens until he had sought the advice of South Africa's president, is treating his time in England as an opportunity to serve as an unofficial ambassador.

Saracens have assembled one of the most talented back rows in the league now that Pienaar has linked up with the prospective England forwards Tony Diprose and Richard Hill. The presence of the charismatic Pienaar is expected to act as a magnet for ambitious young players.

Orrell are without two first-choice backs, the wing Nigel Henson (recalled on police duty) and the fly-half Matt McCarthy, who was concussed a week ago. However, their Pilkington Cup victory over the big-spending Bedford may convince the Merseyside club that they are good enough to overcome another team built by heavy investment in the transfer market.

Another major London fixture sees the recall of Rory Underwood and the lock Matt Poole to the Leicester line-up for the clash with Harlequins at The Stoop. Poole has recovered from a knee injury which sidelined him for six weeks and Underwood takes the place of the left-wing Leon Lloyd, who switches to centre to cover for the injured Stuart Potter. Like Potter, Rob Lilley is missing with a shoulder problem which enables the Irishman Niall Malone to return as fly-half.

Having won their last three games at The Stoop, Leicester will aim to consolidate their position as league leaders with another victory over the early-season pace-setters. In theory the Tigers could win all four competitions in which they are still involved, while Quins, notwithstanding their major signings and high-scoring wins, are in danger of missing out on the lot.

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Pienaar... charismatic

West Hartlepool ready to let Botham make a name for himself

LIAM BOTHAM could make his league debut at centre for West Hartlepool in the League One relegation clash at London Irish.

He takes over from Sean Burns, who moves from his temporary place at fly-half back to his normal position in the centre.

Meanwhile Craig Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off, will be absent from the Scottish Borders side to play Glasgow at New Anniesland. The Melrose player, who missed last week's first-round game against Colinton because of a groin injury, will again be replaced by the Scotland A representative Scott Welch.

Sport in brief

Drugs in sport

Fifty leading sports officials, including administrators, doctors and coaches, from former East Germany are to be charged with having supplied competitors with banned performance-enhancing drugs.

American Football

Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Dallas, always expected to be in the NFL play-offs; between them they have won 14 Super Bowl championships. What they do not expect is to be playing in the first round, which where they are this weekend.

Dallas entertain Minnesota today. Then tomorrow Pittsburgh are at home to Indianapolis in a reprise of last year's AFC championship game and Philadelphia play at San Francisco.

Basketball

Christian Leutner scored a career-high 37 points as the Atlanta Hawks beat the Chicago Bulls 108-103. The Hawks won their 10th consecutive home game while the Bulls had an eight-game winning streak broken.

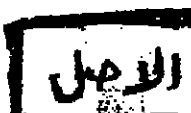
Tennis

Steff Graf, who has withdrawn from the Hopman Cup with a virus, will be replaced in the unseeded German team by the 21-year-old Petra Bergerow, ranked 83rd in the world. The tournament, a warm-up for the Australian Open in Melbourne from January 13-26, begins in the Western Australian state capital of Perth tomorrow.

Cricket

Winter Tour - Zimbabwe Day International For regular score updates call 0891 22 88 29

The Guardian INTERACTIVE





Racing

Joker pick of the pack

Ron Cox rates Kettlewell's chaser one step ahead of the handicapper

GIVEN the rise in temperature necessary for today's Newcastle meeting, Esby Joker is expected to withstand a rise in the ratings to continue his winning run in the Gosforth Park Handicap Chase.



Easy does it... Esby Joker displays the jumping technique which can pay dividends again at Newcastle today

Collier lined up for bonus

Mr Mulligan, who looked certain to finish runner-up to One Man at Kempton on Friday, is lined up for the bonus on Saturday.

Dunwoody makes Merry at Leopardstown

RICHARD DUNWOODY maintained his rich vein of form when he rode Merry Gale to victory in the McCain Handicap Chase at Leopardstown yesterday.

Other crack at chasing's premier event but Jim Dreaper, his trainer, is not convinced he stays the three and a quarter miles.

Newcastle card with guide to the form

Table with race numbers, horse names, and jockey names for Newcastle races.

Table with race numbers, horse names, and jockey names for Leopardstown races.

Wolverhampton (A.W.) with form for the Jackpot races

Table with race numbers, horse names, and jockey names for Wolverhampton races.

Table with race numbers, horse names, and jockey names for Wolverhampton Jackpot races.

Leopardstown runners and riders

Table listing Leopardstown runners and riders for various races.

Leopardstown runners and riders

Table listing Leopardstown runners and riders for various races.

Results

Table showing race results, including winners and runners-up.

Results

Table showing race results, including winners and runners-up.

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Soccer

Victory against Arsenal and a Boxing Day thrashing. John Lawson finds a lion-hearted learning management's ups and downs

# Forest stirred by Pearce pride

THE muscle-packed thighs and steely glare that made opposition players cower in unshamed respect and honest-to-goodness fear are not quite the same force as they were when Stuart Pearce was pumping up Nottingham Forest to bursting point.

If Brian Clough was the lifeblood of a club that has flared successfully with the best then Psycho himself was the heartbeat. And what a heart. Not many players even considered the painful prospect of trying to block one of the full-back's marauding, buccannering runs. All they saw were eyes fixed like bayonets, shining tattoos that could have been stamped SAS and a single-minded determination to win at all costs.

With his 35th birthday looming in April, the runs are not so frequent or penetrating these days but the passion that burns inside Pearce still demands and commands respect wherever he plays. It was that respect, that commitment, that determination not to concede defeat that Forest, not surprisingly, turned in their greatest hour of need eight days ago.

Anyone with an inkling of day-to-day life at the City Ground will say that it was only a question of when Pearce would manage the club that has been his working life for 11 years or more. The question of whether he would one day boss the club he has played for with such distinction was never really an issue.

The timing could have been better for all concerned but it was hastened by the predicament that Forest had got themselves into, dashing headlines towards the Nationwide League at a quicker rate than desperate shoppers demanding cash for the sales.

Frank Clark, all honesty and integrity, had tried his best to stir some reaction from a side that not only had failed to win in 16 league starts but was beginning to lose hope of the season that went down in Clough's last season.

For all Clark's admirable qualities, he knew he could not provide the resuscitation levels needed to get Forest back on their feet quickly enough to stand any chance of retaining an increasingly coveted Premiership place.

He also knew — to his credit — that the inspirational quality that he perhaps lacked in his dignified manner was present in the man who has replaced him, temporarily or otherwise. That is why Clark had no hesitation in recommending to the Forest directors when he was leaving that they

"should give Stuart a try". A few hours later, after deep conversation with his wife and close friends, Pearce had installed himself in the madhouse of management. Whether he decides to continue in mid-January, when Forest's protracted takeover plans might be shrouded in less mystery, is debatable.

For all we know, Pearce's England career, brought out of self-inflicted retirement by Glenn Hoddle earlier this season, might well be over. But no one should underestimate how important representing his country is to him. The arm-waving antics, the screaming delight and uncontrollable tears are the real thing when it comes to his three-lion emotions.

Prolonging his playing career with Forest is not far behind in the priority stakes. He is rattling on past 300 appearances for the club and since Clough picked him up for a song from Coventry in May 1985.

By Clough's own admission, Pearce was the one who did the "picking up" after that. He reveals: "When Pearce rolls up his sleeves, hitches up his shorts and goes into battle, you can't have anyone better on your side. There were times when we were in need of a bit of an all-round lift and you could almost bank on him picking up the crowd and the team. I know one bloody thing, he certainly picked me up."

"I used to watch full-backs wheeze the ball forward in Pearce's direction and when he chested it down and set off on one of those galloping runs of his, the poor lad who had just got rid of the damned thing would be saying, 'Oh God, here he comes again.' You could see the horror bursting through the expressions on their faces."

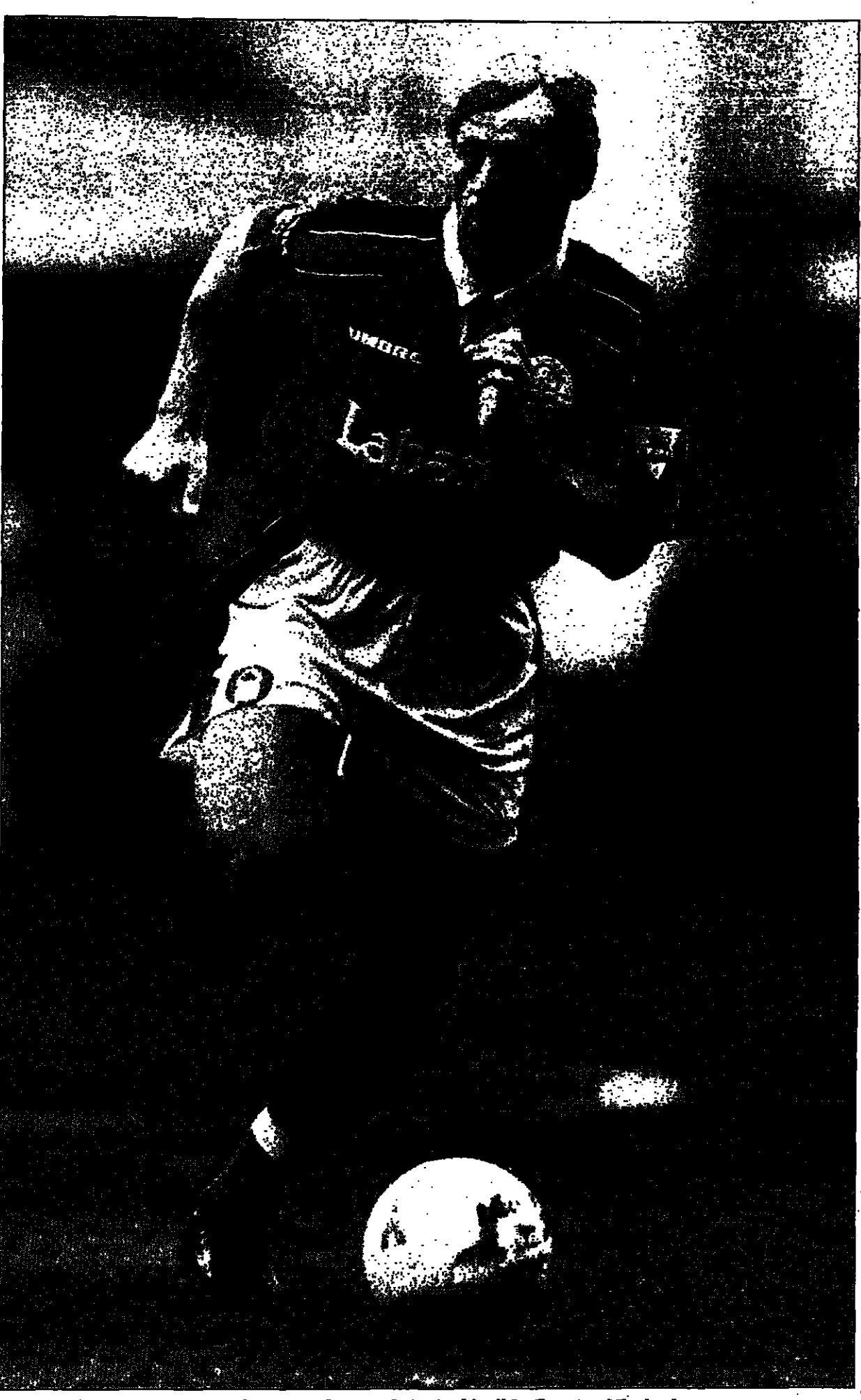
Whether Pearce can go on lifting Forest remains to be seen but he made a good start against Arsenal even if Manchester United ruined his Boxing Day.

It was inevitable in the wake of Clark's departure and Pearce's clenched-fisted appointment that there would be some reaction in his first game. Forest came from behind to beat Arsenal and outwit Arsène Wenger who, despite his deep knowledge of the game, had not appreciated the influence that Pearce can bring to bear by the River Trent. If Clough could walk across it, Pearce could almost make it halfway.

United, however, ripped up the script and further questions of Pearce's managerial tenure will be asked this afternoon when Forest head down the A46 to meet a Leicester City side managed by a man who might easily have been installed at Forest before Clark got the job 3½ years ago.

Martin O'Neill's place in Forest history is decorated with honours but the manager's job there is currently held by an individual who will probably go down in the club's history as one of the greatest — and possibly the most popular.

Forest supporters, with renewed belief, will be hoping Pearce can carry on the dual role. If he is successful they might even settle for him



Bursting with passion... Pearce has always been ready to give his all for Forest and England PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID MUNDEN

giving up the playing side prematurely.

But there will be some agonising before he makes up his mind about continuing the managerial job. Pearce will weigh things up next month and decide what is right for him and his wife Liz.

It took a pizza advert to persuade the watching nation that Pearce's wit is as sharp as his tackles, and he knows he will need more than a little humour in the weeks and maybe months and years ahead.

Pearce values his private life and finds relaxation at contrasting ends of the league scale. He has an increasing love of working with horses — his wife introduced him to the equestrian life — yet he still enjoys letting his hair down with the punk-rock fraternity in which he has many friends. It is a peculiar mix but it works for him.

He switches off from football when he goes out of the main gates as quickly as he will switch on this afternoon. It is not so easy to do that in his new role but the football folk of Nottingham hope that their latter-day Robin Hood will stay in management long enough to steer Forest out of the woods.

# Bierhoff has eye on move to Ewood

THE GERMAN international Oliver Bierhoff may well become the first high-profile foreign player to be lured to Blackburn Rovers by the prospect of playing under their new coach Sven Goran Eriksson.

Only three months after the gifted striker rejected the chance of a move to Ewood Park he has reopened lines of communication with Blackburn officials through his representatives.

News that one of European football's most accomplished forwards is unsettled and considering his future will certainly interest the Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, a long-time admirer of Bierhoff's abilities.

Bierhoff, who scored Germany's golden-goal winner in last summer's European Championship final against the Czech Republic at Wembley, currently plays for the Italian club Udinese. However, this week he publicly announced he would like to move to England.

"Although I do enjoy life in Italy, I would like to join a top club in England," he said. Although Bierhoff, 28, recently signed a contract designed to keep him at the Serie A club for at least the next three seasons, he is confident of negotiating an immediate release if any club is willing to meet an anticipated asking price of \$5 million.

"I am under contract until the year 2000 but I am sure that Udinese will let me go," he said. Blackburn's former manager Ray Harford tried to sign Bierhoff in September but abandoned his attempts after the player rejected a basic £30,000 a week.

Although the Swedish coach Eriksson is unlikely to take control at Blackburn until July because of contractual obligations to his present club Sampdoria, he has been told he can begin spending immediately the estimated £22 million which has been made available for new players.

Any transfer would be delayed until after Bierhoff has a minor ankle operation early next month. Everton have filed in an attempt to sign Leeds United's former England international Carlton Palmer.

With his first-team squad ravaged by injuries, Everton's manager Joe Royle asked his Leeds counterpart George Graham to consider a £1.5 million offer for Palmer, who arrived at Elland Road from Sheffield Wednesday for £2.5 million in 1994.

Royle may be forced to name a side lacking six regular first-team players against Wimbledon at Goodison Park this afternoon. But he said that he had not considered calling off the game, something Middlesbrough controversially did last weekend when they declined to play at Middlesbrough because of similar problems.

Coventry's veteran goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic will break his club's appearance record when they meet Middlesbrough at Highfield Road today. Ogrizovic, 39, will play his 544th game for the Sky Blues, eclipsing the mark set by the former Coventry centre-half George Curtis in 1970.

Coventry's manager Gordon Strachan said of Ogrizovic: "He trains more than anyone in the club and, when I told the players he'd equalled George Curtis's record on Boxing Day, they stood and applauded."

# Baggio loses £2.4 million in alleged savings swindle

ROBERTO BAGGIO has said other Italian soccer players had put money in the company but added that Baggio was the single biggest investor, placing between £1.2 million and £2.4 million.

The Milan and Italy forward, reputed to be the world's biggest earning soccer player in 1995, was one of at least 200 people who put money in a finance company based in Rimini which promised enormous returns on foreign investments in tax havens, according to reports.

But the money has allegedly vanished and 16 people from the company in the Adriatic resort were arrested shortly before Christmas. "There would now seem to be no trace of the billions of lire invested," said La Stampa.

Judicial sources reportedly said other Italian soccer players had put money in the company but added that Baggio was the single biggest investor, placing between £1.2 million and £2.4 million.

Corriere della Sera said finance police were considering opening their own inquiries to see if investors had paid taxes on funds.

The alleged swindle has come at a bad time for the 29-year-old Baggio. He has spent much of the season on the bench at Milan and has quarrelled with Arrigo Sacchi, who returned as coach at the San Siro earlier this month.

# A N Other

THIS tenacious, perceptive Glaswegian midfielder will always be remembered for the pass which led to football's most famous piece of silverware abandoning its widely predicted route and heading in the opposite direction. The moment came towards the end of a career which had begun among some old folk, hooted in the north, howled in the Midlands and then dwelt briefly among those who were soon to become his victims. His career ended tragically.



Performance of the week: Chris Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), whose all-round excellence against Newcastle on Thursday did much to spoil Alan Shearer's return to Ewood Park.

# Thousands back Old Trafford's title charge

est has established them as the form horses and today they have a further chance to sneak up on the rails by beating Leeds at Old Trafford. Ferguson must decide whether to start with Andy Cole, who proved his return to fitness with superb goal against Forest, or persist with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, another Boxing Day marksman.

Whatever happens today, the title race promises to be the most open for years, a fact which yesterday led Chelsea's manager Ruud Gullit to suggest that standards in the Premiership have dropped sharply this season. "It is becoming better with more teams challenging for the title. It's very open," he said.

"Perhaps it's because there are more foreigners now, maybe because of the way England played in Euro 96. There's a great deal more attention on the Premiership from abroad now. The standard is certainly better. Clubs are spending money to try to get results, and that's got to be good."

Gullit's signing of Gianfranco Zola looks to be one of the season's shrewdest deals and the Italian will be looking to add to his tally of four goals in four games against Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge today.

"It wasn't easy for Franco at the start, because he was living in a hotel rather than his own home, and couldn't get his own rhythm," said Gullit. "Now he is at home, feels appreciated and that the team appreciates him, and that's what he needs."

But Chelsea will do well to beat Wednesday who are unbeaten in 10 games, eight of them draws. Arsenal are among those who have failed to breach their defence — Arsène Wenger's side drew 0-0 at Hillsborough on Boxing Day and require a 3-0 victory over Aston Villa to go back to the top, at least until Liverpool visit Southampton tomorrow.

Newcastle are among those struggling to ring in a cheerful new year after a dismal run which has yielded only seven points from nine games. Another defeat by Spurs at St James' Park today will ask serious questions of a team who have yet to fire this season.

Although Newcastle's assistant manager Terry McDermott yesterday admitted that the team were "not playing particularly well", he denied that the situation was irreversible. "We need the fans behind us while we're in this rut," he said. "If they are, we'll get it right."

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## Team sheet

**Arsenal v Aston Villa**  
Plot is ruled out by a hamstring strain but Vieira returns after suspension and will partner his fellow Frenchman Gallas in the midfield. The Gunners are hoping that Digne will be fit, while Morrison and Team are expected to shuttle off benches picked up in the goalless draw at Sheffield Wednesday. Villa have drawn over the fitness of their striker Mido (groin) and midfielder Dreyer (groin) and Taylor (knee).

**Chelsea v Sheffield Wed**  
Labeod and Wise are free from suspension but may have to wait for their returns to two games. The Dutch winger Blaise could return to the Wednesday line-up as they try to extend their 10-match unbeaten run; the striker Booth may return in place of Hirst.

**Coventry v Middlesbrough**  
The Coventry keeper Ogrizovic will set a club record in what will be his 544th game, overthrowing the former centre-half George Curtis. The side are likely to be unchanged after three straight wins. Hirst will be without their Scottish central defender Whyte, who starts a two-match suspension, Morris missing over.

**Derby v Blackburn**  
Stinson received a dead leg in Derby's defeat at Sunderland but should be fit, while Ansonic was ruled out but could return for Dally. Blackburn's defender Hendry has a red on a dead leg while Fitzwilliam is again missing with an ankle injury.

**Everton v Wimbledon**  
Everton are without Hinchcliffe, who has knee-ligament trouble, their captain Weston has a rib injury and Manchester United's back their defender McMillan.

**Leicester v Nottingham Forest**  
Leicester's defender Karaman is out with a hamstring strain, missing a cup-up for Lewis, while Lamson is still coming-to terms for a start in a League side, while Dorogi could make his first full appearance this season after injury.

## Scottish preview

**Patrick Glenn**  
ON THE day that Celtic's manager Tommy Burns bought David Hannah, the former Scotland under-21 midfielder, from Dundee United for £600,000 he revealed that the club captain Paul McStay would return to the first team after four months' absence.

McStay's absence with an ankle injury — coinciding with that of Phil O'Donnell, who returned last week — has left Celtic seriously deficient in midfield and his return this afternoon prompted a glowing tribute from Burns.

"Paul's been here so long," said the manager, "that he's not noticed until he is out of action. Knowing he would be missing for some time with his injury, we've tried to replace him and discovered there's nobody out there we could have bought who is as good."

مكتبة من الراجيل



Cricket

Flower joins the drivers to distraction

Paul Allott sees a Zimbabwe batsman show England what they should have done in Harare

DO NOT blame Zimbabwe for a tedious day's cricket: their batsmen were doing the job that England's top order failed to do.

For England's bowlers on this dead-slow pitch frustration was beginning to mount even before the rain.

When batsmen set out to occupy the crease to the complete exclusion of any run-scoring intent, the bowlers can verge on hallucination.

It is a hard, but obvious, prerequisite (barring declarations) to take 20 wickets in a game to stand a chance of winning and obdurate batting on lifeless pitches has made folk heroes of a series of unlikely individuals in Test and county cricket.

David Steele, in 1975 and 1976 against Australia and West Indies, characterised the bulldog spirit by defying the world's quickest fast bowlers almost exclusively by playing them off the front foot.

When exasperation finally comes for the bowler it is not the batsman's technique or approach that is mentally haunting. It is the stupid things that get to him.

It was always Steele's spectacle as he grinned mockingly at one from 23 yards, with the sun glinting off the shiny frames.

Games used to make one bowl so wide of off stump that one was in danger of hitting gully. One never bowled that wide at anyone else.

Botham can remember only one instance of obdurate batting against him. The present England manager — Trout to his mates — is now adept at straight-batting the media at question time but he once batted for two sessions against Botham and mustered only 17.

After playing a crucial part in Australia's second Test victory on his home ground in Sydney McGrath relished bowling on an MCG pitch exploited by Curtly Ambrose on the first day, one which he



Chain reaction... Shivnarine Chanderpaul is caught and bowled by Australia's Glenn McGrath, who finished the day on an impressive five for 40

Australia v West Indies: third Test, second day

McGrath's high five keep Australia alive

Andy Wilson in Melbourne

NO DISRESPECT to Guy Whittall but, if England cannot handle him and the rest of the Zimbabwe pace attack, what chance do they have against Glenn McGrath next summer?

Another five-wicket haul, including Brian Lara for the fourth time in the series, shattered West Indies' hopes of a second first-innings lead. They finished 14 ahead with one wicket left and McGrath is within two wickets of matching Shane Warne by reaching a century in his 23rd Test.

from the crowd (a mere 32,000 for the second day) and started nervously, taking 13 balls to get off the mark. 11 of them from Warne.

Hooper's dismissal, even by his own standards, was irresponsible. Lucky not to be caught as a lazy drive fell just short of McGrath at mid-on, he called a crazy single and was out by a yard.

Chanderpaul was left in his familiar role, holding the innings together, and as usual batted manfully to reach his third half-century of the series and his 11th in 21 Test

innings. But after 209 watchful minutes he was punished for an uppish on-drive when McGrath struck out his long left arm and clung to a one-handed catch.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes players like S. Warne, G. McGrath, and S. Chanderpaul.

West Indies were 107 for five, still 112 behind, but then Junior Murray joined Jimmy Adams to dominate a sixth-wicket stand of 90.

Instead the batsman's fourth Test half-century was little more than damage limitation, which ended when McGrath took the second new ball and had him caught at fine leg from a top-edged hook.

Benjamin was out before the close, the only wicket for Paul Reffel, who bowled 29 overs after Jason Gillespie had been forced out of the match, and probably the series, with a side strain early in the day.

With the prospect of facing Warne in the last innings looming large for West Indies, who closed on 233 for nine, the advantage has swung significantly to Australia.



On guard... an unhappy Atherton waits in vain for the obdurate Flower to show signs of yielding

India rolled over by Donald's pace

AN impressive spell of fast bowling by Allan Donald gave South Africa a stranglehold on the first Test against India in Durban yesterday.

Hudson, who made 80 first time around, and Adam Bachar built on that with a second-wicket partnership of 111, enabling the home side to close on 164 for four in their second innings.

While India had the better of the first day, dismissing South Africa for 236, their batsmen always struggled on a pitch offering pace and bounce.

Holloake strikes with the ball and salvages with the bat

SURREY'S Ben Holloake showed his all-round value as England faltered against Pakistan in the third Under-19 Test in Lahore.

When England batted they overcame the early loss of Peters (9) and Sales (16) to reach 105 for two before Fahir removed Batty, Ibw for 33, and Nash, bowled for a duck.

Whale of a time after Buster blows out

Bob Fisher in Hobart

THE Southerly Buster which hit the Sydney-Hobart fleet and wrought havoc with some of the leaders, moderated as darkness fell on the first night at sea, leaving the competitors gasping for a fresh breath of wind.

rather had, however, taken her course more to the west of Warwick Miller's 66-footer and 12 hours later the order at the front had changed.

to go faster and Exle's slender lead was threatened. "They are under spinner and you'll expect the larger Morning Glory to overhaul Exle by tomorrow morning, unless something went radically wrong," said the race spokesman Peter Campbell.

Farr designed 45-footer was close astern of the 47R Ausmaid of George Georgia and these two hold a slight edge on the Murray designed 41-footer Terra Firma, of Scott Carlisle and Dean Wilson, the handicapped winner last year.

Leading the cruiser division, on the Performance Handicap System, is the 50ft Bright Morning Star, owned and skippered by Hugh Treharne, the tactician of Australia II when she won the America's Cup.

Challenge crowd proves shot in the arm for Leeds Rhinos

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE crowd of 13,600 for Leeds Rhinos' Challenge match with Halifax Blue Sox on Boxing Day was massively heartening, despite their 14-6 defeat, for a club whose average attendances fell by more than 3,000 during the first Super League season.

At Wigan, too, the crowd of 16,199 for the game with St Helens was well above expectation and, despite the absence of a number of star performers from both clubs, the contest proved competitive enough to ensure the success of next week's second leg showdown at Knowsley Road.

Chess

McShane tops bill in Hastings end-of-pier show

Leonard Barden on the old congress with a starring role for amateurs and a 12-year-old

HASTINGS, the longest-running congress in the international calendar, opens at the Clingva Fort Hotel today amid growing interest in its newest tournament, the World Amateur Championship.

politics could pose a big problem soon. The congress is played in split venues, with the Premier and its 10 Grandmasters in the hotel and the remaining players in the ballroom at the end of the pier where, competitors allege, gale-force winds or stormy seas can cause one to blunder a rock.

Britain's Michael Adams, aged 25 and ranked 15th in the world, is top seed and favourite to win the Premier, despite the anticipated strong opposition from Xie Jun and from a new Armenian talent, the 18-year-old Sergei Movsesian.

Many spectators will have the elements and head for the pier to see Luke McShane, at the age of 12 Britain's most promising junior since Short. McShane can move closer to becoming the UK's youngest-ever International Master if he does well in the Challenge, a tournament open to all that has this year attracted 11 Grandmasters headed by a Russian.

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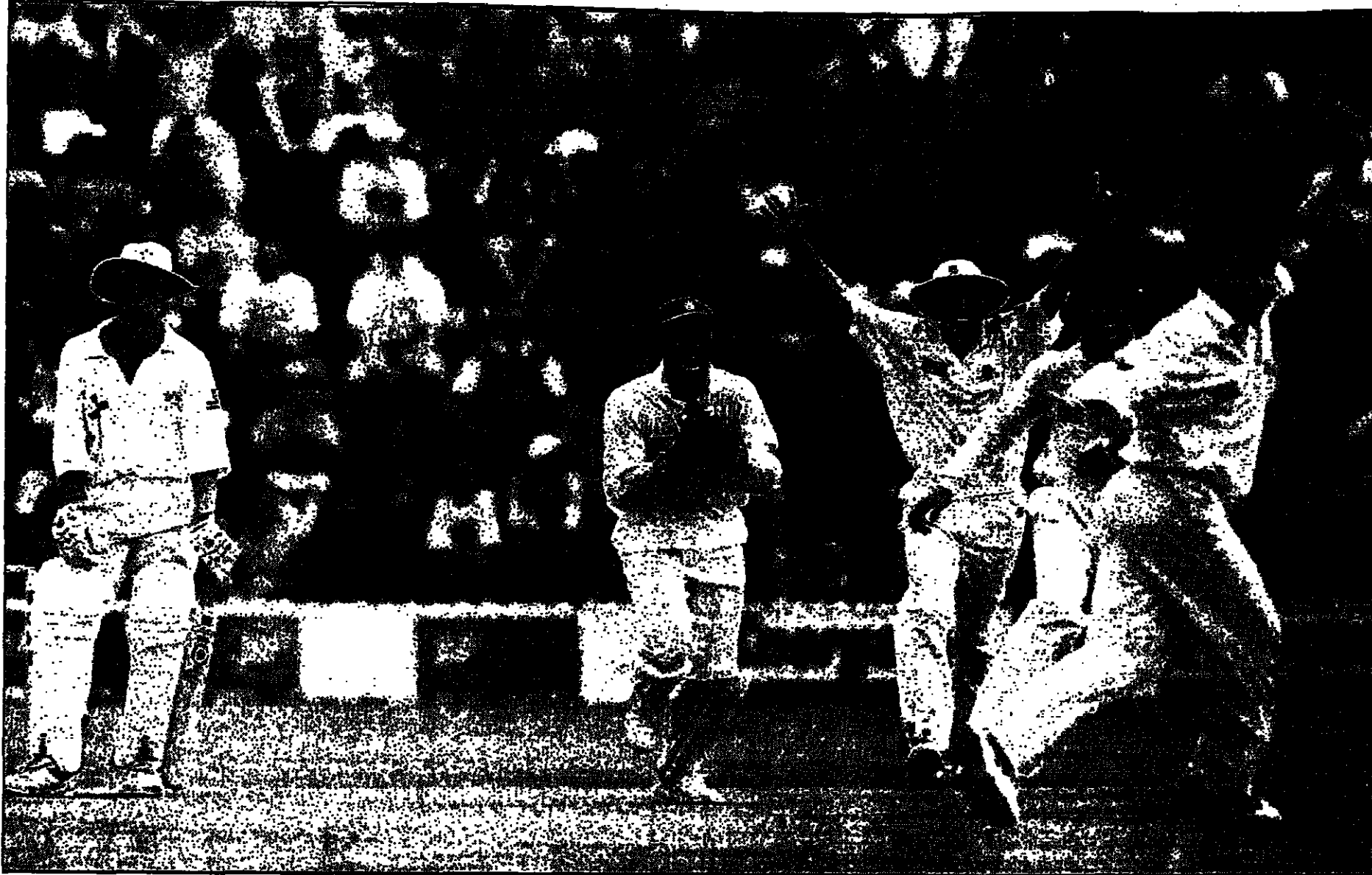
**Brown runs into Africa**  
Briton takes on the best for a Durham crown  
**20**



**Manager's mission**  
Can Pearce get Forest out of the woods?  
**22**

# TheGuardian Sport

## TEST CRICKET



Waiting game... Flower, on 29, stands his ground as Croft, far right, and all England appeal for Stewart's catch; umpire Tiffin said no, video replays suggested otherwise

Zimbabwe v England: second Test, second day

# Flower grinds England

David Hopps in Harare on a day when Zimbabwe were dogged, bowlers were frustrated and play was mercifully truncated

**T**HOSE who stayed awake long enough to pass judgment were united in the belief that Grant Flower was playing an immensely valuable innings, showing just the sort of, yawn, calm, discipline that England's batsmen had

Sorry, dropped off again there. Must give credit where it's due. Just the sort of discipline that England's batsmen have lacked during their collapse on the first day of the second Test, an innings that placed dependability above player, and the achievement of the team ahead of individual satisfaction.

An innings that made no concessions: not to the crowd, not to Flower's own frailties and certainly not to an England team forced to withstand 34 hours of dripping torture. Three and a quarter hours for an unbeaten 331. Three and a quarter hours of admirable mind-numbing commitment during which the changing cloud formations over Harare Sports Club were dramatic by comparison.

By the time that heavy rain forced the abandonment of

the second day, four balls into the final session, Flower had chaperoned Zimbabwe to 93 for two in 48 overs, only 63 behind England's first-innings total. At this rate he will reach his century early on Sunday morning and, if he does, Zimbabwe will have victory since Test status.

The embarrassment for England, if that occurs, needs little underlining, especially as they voted against Zimbabwe's application. Losing to the weakest Test nation is no way to prepare for next summer's Ashes series.

Flower played a monumental role in Zimbabwe's only victory in 20 Tests. His unbeaten 201 against Pakistan on this ground two years ago engineered a win by an innings and 64 runs amid allegations of match-rigging against Pakistan's captain Salim Malik.

If there is one asset that shines from Flower at the crease it is his honesty. Honesty of stroke and honesty of purpose. He has a puritanical look that hints at unfathomable patience and his only concession to flair is a minor flourish at the end of his forward

defensive stroke, like a thin strand of tinsel on an otherwise undecorated Christmas tree.

England will swear that they should already be rid of him, and the Sky TV replays, complete with zoom-in pictures, support their contention. On 29, Flower dalled with a leg glance against Croft and was caught down the leg side by Stewart, but

umpire Tiffin was unmoved. Three strokes remain in the mind. Croft's introduction tempted him into two lofted leg-side hits in quick succession. If that was an unexpected indulgence, it was nothing compared to the sight much later of Flower striding down the pitch to lift Tufnell one bounce into the long-off advertising hoardings. Suitably the ball fell near a spectator in a John Major mask, whose expression suggested that the day was all extremely rewarding. At least it looked like a mask. If it was the real John Major, Flower can expect a last-minute entry in the New Year Honours List.

Flower has some way to go today before he can think in terms of world records. Trevor Bailey, compiler of the slowest Test half-century, virtually six hours in Brisbane in 1968, was here yesterday. One of his duties was as a tour host, and there was no more appropriate witness.

Bailey was barracked in Brisbane but Flower proceeded in virtual silence. Memories of England's self-destruction on the first day entirely vindicated his approach on a sluggish, holding pitch on which anything more ambitious than a furtive prod is a high-risk stroke.

England's attack is not suited to this surface. Much as Mullanly, Gough and White sought to adapt, and match Zimbabwe's line-and-length discipline, all three are natural hit-the-pitch bowlers. Gough, indeed, volunteered the view after bowling out Matabeleland earlier in the tour that he was "not a line-and-length bowler". Considering that admission, he stuck at it fairly well.

Silverwood, who might have relished such conditions, has been dropped for the insurance of an extra batsman this from a side that, according to England's coach David Lloyd, murdered, steam-rollered and hammered Zimbabwe in the drawn Test in Bulawayo.

Older English spectators wondered how this old-fashioned surface would have suited the likes of Brian Statham, Tom Cartwright, Don Shepherd and Derek Shackleton. Others considered the present county contingent and proposed unlikely names such as Tim Munton, Peter Hartley, Steve Watkins and even Ian Austin. What was clear is that four-day cricket on flat pitches is little preparation for this. Earlier England added 19 to their overnight 137 for nine. Streak eventually bowling Tufnell off bat and stomach to leave Crawley, who had resisted for 220 minutes,

stranded on 47. They then managed two wickets; Mullanly's out-swinger accounting for Dekker, White switching around the wicket to deceive Campbell into cutting a shortish delivery to first slip.

But the day belonged to Flower. Even with such a small total to defend, there were suggestions that Atherton might have attacked a little more to tempt Flower into indiscretion. Tempt Flower? He would have had no luck if he had donned a pair of devil's horns.

Paul Ailes, page 23

# The save, the miss and all that money



David Lacey

**Y**ESTERDAY'S snowfalls were a reminder that the New Year will mark the 50th anniversary of the severe winter of 1947, when English football enjoyed an unscheduled mid-season break of such generosity that the championship was not settled until the first week in June.

Those looking for historical parallels might note that Liverpool eventually won the title, finishing a point ahead of Manchester United. On the other hand Manchester City won promotion that year, so history may be bunk after all.

The return to a normal league programme after the war produced an aggregate attendance figure for the 1946-47 season of 35.6 million — 14.2 million more than last season's total in the Premier and English leagues.

Yet the game surely has a much wider appeal than it did in those male-oriented days, when television coverage was confined to the FA Cup final. BSkyB may show live matches to a relatively small and exclusive audience but pay-TV, which will enable fans to watch their teams in away games at a fraction of the present cost, is almost here.

Money will continue to dominate football during the coming year. There will soon have been enough share flotations for a Spithead review.

The leading players are earning more than ever. England has replaced France as an Eldorado for footballers past their prime in the Italian league.

In 1946-47 Middlesbrough's Wally Mann was given a 33 per cent rise to the giddy heights of £12 a week. Fifty years later Fabrizio Ravanelli is earning an additional £39,988, and Boro still cannot raise a team to play at Blackburn.

Happy cash no more guarantees success now than it did then. Paying £15 million for Alan Shearer looks like doing

as much for Newcastle's title pretensions as the arrival of Billy Steel, for a then record fee of £15,000, did for Derby County during the 1947 summer.

The nation is now shock-proof regarding transfers. Even if the coming year sees the first £20 million fee the event will hardly be greeted with the astonishment that accompanied Tommy Lawton's £20,000 move from Chelsea to Nottingham, then in the old Third Division (South), in November 1947.

Lawton's recent death recalled a time when the England football team were unbeatable at home and rarely lost abroad. In the spirit of 1947, to mark the return of the four British associations to Fifa, Great Britain played the Rest of Europe in front of a crowd of 140,000 at Hampden Park and won 6-1.

Last summer the rejoicing which greeted the appearance of Terry Venables' side in the semi-finals of the European Championship showed how modest our international expectations had become.

Still, England managed to produce the most vivid and dramatic images of the last 12 months: Seaman's save from McAllister in the Scotland game, the supreme moment of individualism from George Cole which immediately followed the fustilade of goals against Holland, and Southgate's Calvary in the penalty shoot-out with Germany.

**G**LENN HODDLE could hardly have done better than win his first three World Cup qualifiers but Italy will be a truer test of his credentials as national coach. At least Hoddie's England are slightly better organised than they were 50 years ago, when Charles Buchan beaumed the team's lack of a kit-man.

"Every club is scared of an epidemic like influenza, eczema or itch sweeping through the camp," he wrote.

Hopes for 1997? That nobody does the Double, which is starting to come up with the rations, that Brighton find a way out from underneath the Archer, and that England not only qualify for the 1998 World Cup but are grouped with Australia.

Glenn against Tel, presser man versus swagman: what a delicious thought for the New Year.

### Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
West Indies (overnight: 137-4)	47
J P Crawley not out	11
D L Houghton not out	26
Extras (b, lb, w, nb)	13
<b>Total (83.1 overs)</b>	117
West Indies	93
England	24
Streak 24-1-2-45-4	Brands
10-2-18-4	Strong 10-7-31-1

ZIMBABWE	
West Indies	93
England	24
Streak 24-1-2-45-4	Brands
10-2-18-4	Strong 10-7-31-1

## Lacroix rings in the new with Quins

Robert Armstrong

**H**ARLEQUINS have strengthened their French connection with the surprise acquisition of the 29-year-old Test fly-half Thierry Lacroix.

Lacroix is expected to make his Courage League debut in next weekend's London derby against Wasps at Loftus Road. An accomplished playmaker, the Frenchman topped last year's World Cup scoring list with 116 points, which helped propel France into the semi-finals. Since making

his Test debut in 1989 he has scored 367 points in 38 games for his country.

The signing of Lacroix is certain to spark fresh criticism of Harlequins' transfer policy, which in this instance will probably squeeze out the England A fly-half Paul Challenger.

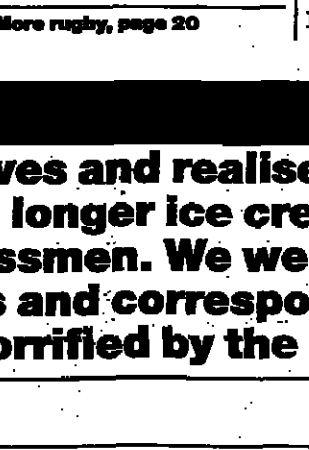
Lacroix could also play at centre after Gary Connolly returns to Wigan next month, and his success as a goalkicker should mean the end of Will Carling's experiment in that department.

Dick Best, the Quins director of rugby, has had Lacroix in his sights since last spring but the player's Currie Cup commitments with Natal ruled out an early move.

Best explained: "We are losing Robbie Paul and Gary Connolly to their rugby league employers in the New Year and Lacroix will fill one of the gaps because he can play at centre or stand-off. He is a world-class goalkicker and another vital piece in our jigsaw which is not yet complete."

More rugby, page 20

Lacroix... French dressing



## Guardian Crossword 20,846

A copy of the Collins Collins Bogart's International Thesaurus will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,846, P.O. Box 315, Miltonham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday, 28 December and winners in the Guardian on Monday December 30.

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28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

Set by Pasquale

- Across**
- To mother an insect is a monster (7)
  - Little girl faces the bowling — comes back hurt (7)
  - Be more than senseless when pinned by arrow shot? (8)
  - See 11
  - What may doubly help the stressed and hard-up teacher? (4,5)
  - One may take exceptional care to secure politician gain possibly (10)
  - Man caught by England player (8) or John? (7), last out (8)
  - Staying behind, phony giant gee-gee is getting in (7)
  - Conservative Society about to present one with disdainful attitude (7)
  - Girl is English, upper-class and pleasant (8)
  - Finkly with detail (10)
  - Bee line made for hilltop (4)

- Down**
- Cook's accomplice again wants extra egg (8)
  - Variety of items as shown by artist (7)
  - Paper round is taken up as a duty (4)
  - A botch-up Caesar's put right with humanitarian legislation (6,6,3)
  - Use one's last resources to get gunge out of rifle? (6,3,6)
  - Checking blood flow that's severe (10)
  - Polish up after having a foreign princess in the country (7)
  - One shut up in a boring job — helps with the washing up (7)
  - Extravagant chatter about golf played (10)
  - Distributor unable to accommodate one should be more flexible (7)
  - One in boat means temblor about a river (7)
  - Present-day split initiated by contemporary type (7)
  - Rebel ruler of Britain sinking in the sea? (5)
  - A four-letter word you may come across with bower boys (4)

**Crossword Solution 20,846**

L	A	S	E	R	A	N	E	S
M	A	N	I	N	G	E	R	
W	A	S	T	E	R			
H	O	L	D	E	R			
S	T	R	E	T				

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The Working

**THE UNBLOCKER**  
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**"We looked at ourselves and realised that we were suddenly no longer ice cream men. We'd become businessmen. We were, you know, writing memos and correspondence," says Jerry, looking horrified by the memory.**

The Week page 15

inside

سنة من العمل